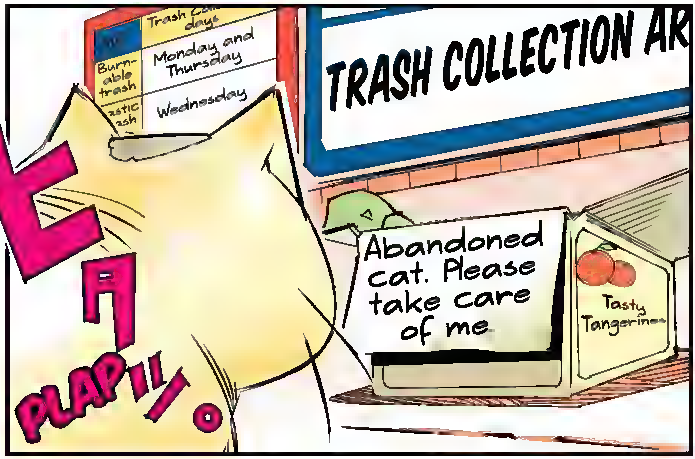
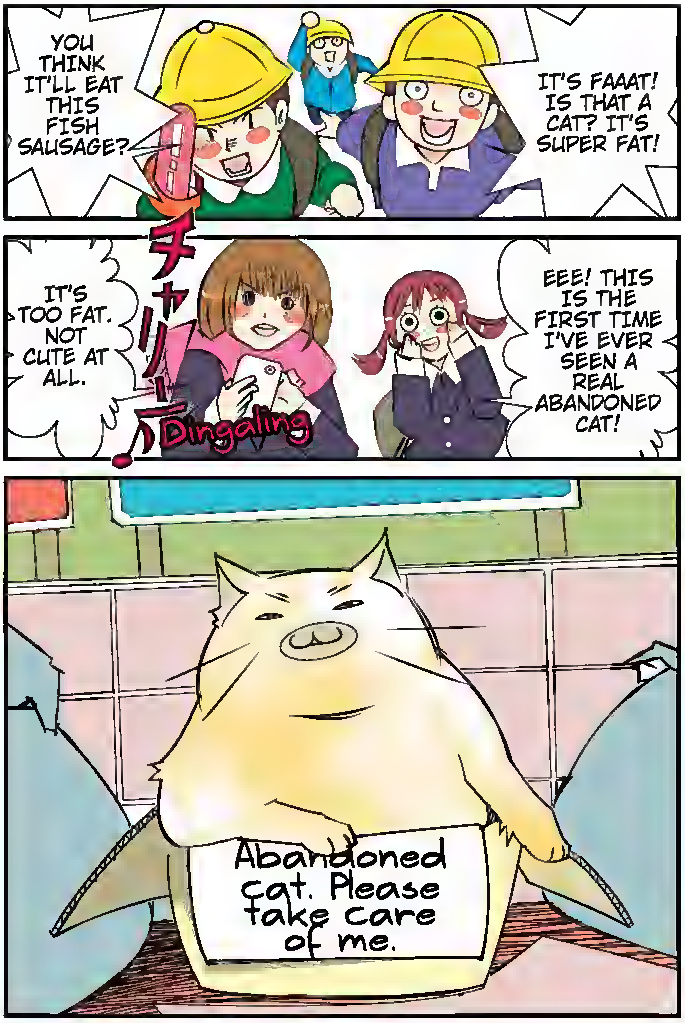
TAWARA CAT

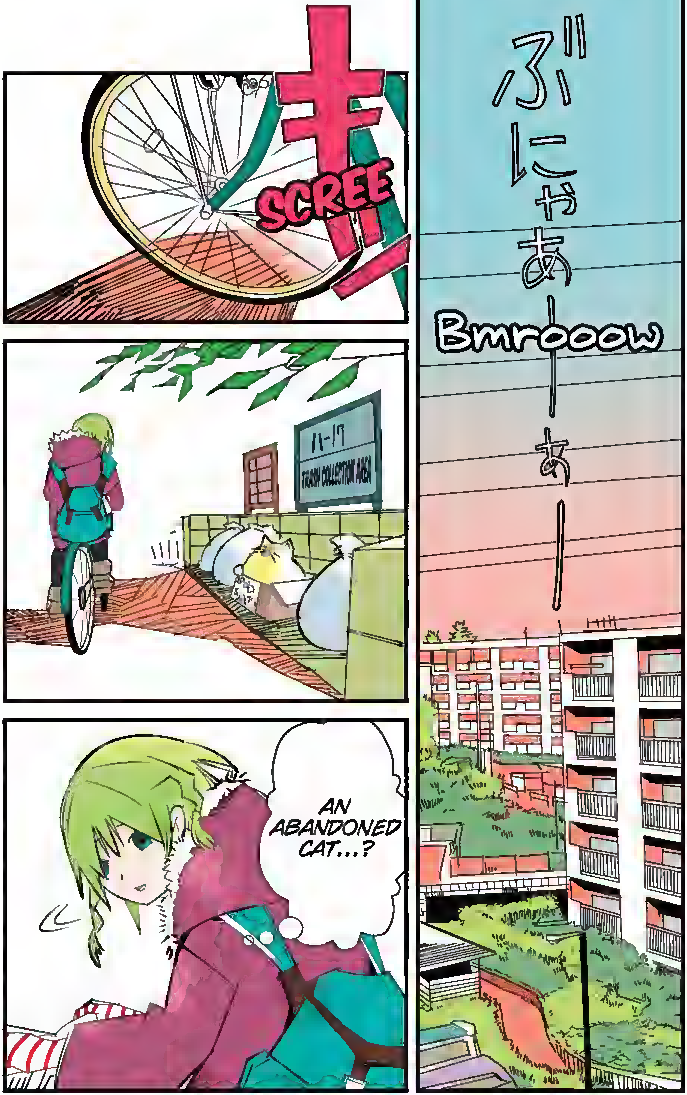
THE TARAWA CAT IS A CREATURE THAT APPEARS IN FRONT OF THOSE WHO ARE IN MISERY. THESE CATS ARE BOUNTIFUL AND SHAPED MUCH LIKE ROUND STRAW BALES. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EDO PERIOD, LUCKY PAINTINGS OF THE TAWARA CAT THAT BROUGHT LAUGHTER AND LUCK WERE VERY MUCH IN FASHION.

PLAP
PLAP
PLAP
1-11
1-13

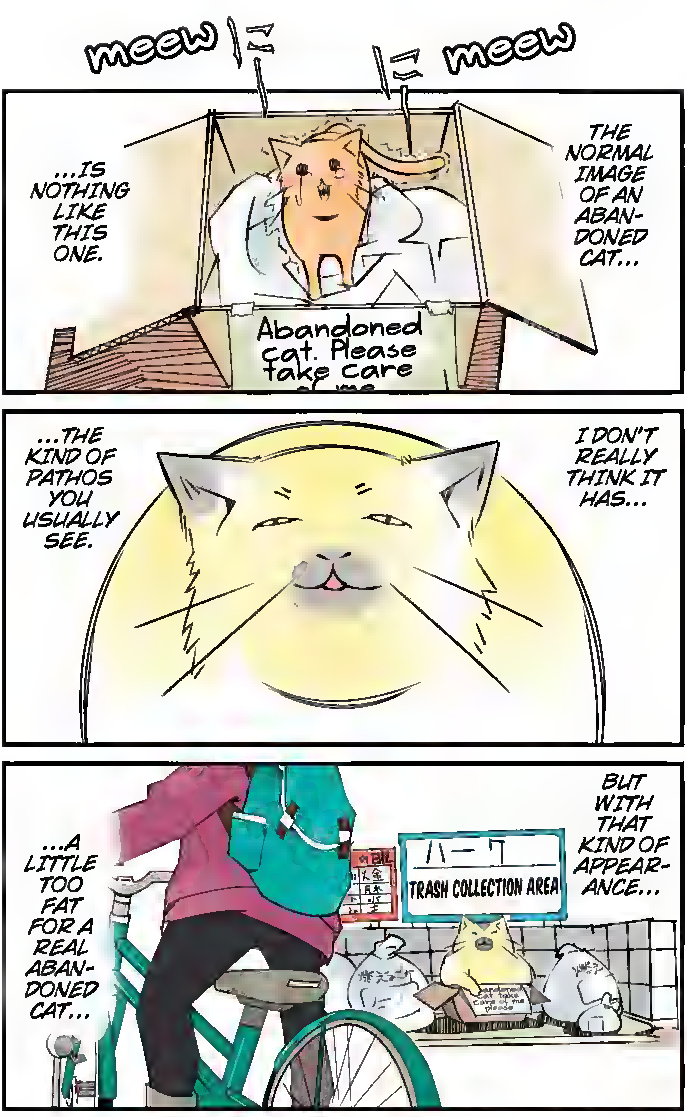

Trash collection days
Burnable trash
Monday and Thursday
Wednesday
TRASH COLLECTION AR
Abandoned cat. Please take care of me
Tasty Tangerines
PLAP
PLAP

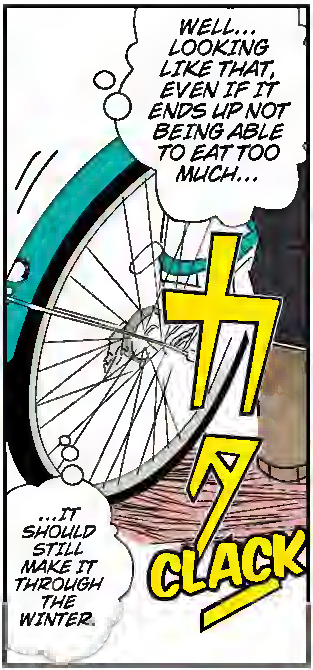
Abandoned cat. Please take care of me.
スリ
SMUSH
TRASH COLLECTION AREA


YOU THINK IT'LL EAT THIS FISH SAUSAGE?
IT'S FAAAT! IS THAT A CAT? IT'S SUPER FAT!
IT'S TOO FAT. NOT CUTE AT ALL.
チャリ～ン♪
Dingaling
EEE! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN A REAL ABANDONED CAT!
Abandoned cat. Please take care of me.

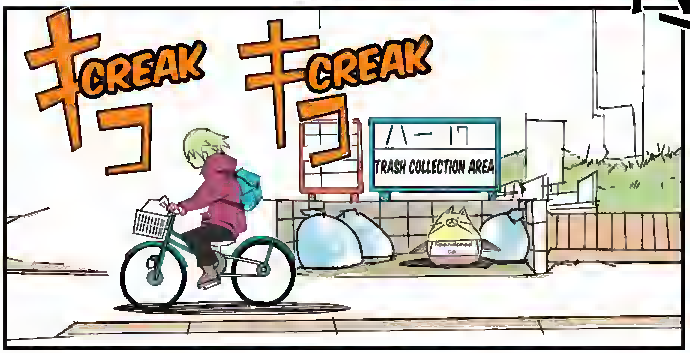

キー
SCREE
ハーバ
TRASH COLLECTION AREA
AN ABANDONED CAT...?
ぶにゃあー
Bmrooow

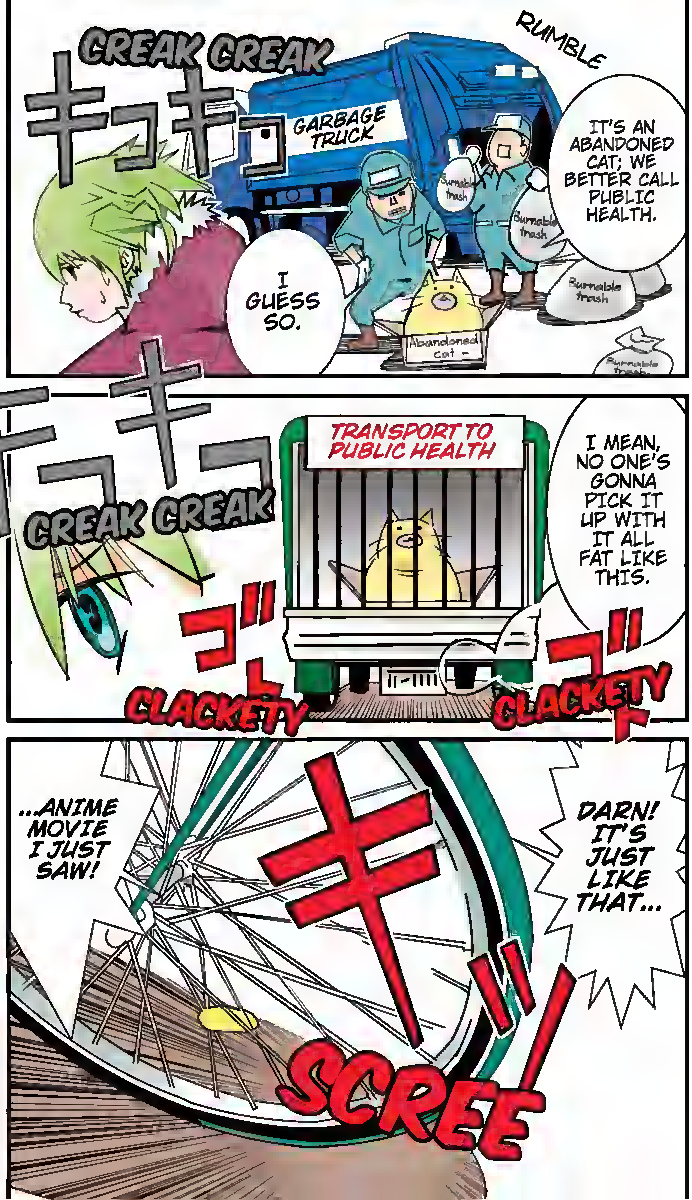
GLARE!!
AT THAT MOMENT, AN ENDLESS SENSATION OF DISCOMFORT GRABBED HOLD OF MY HEART.


meow
meow
...IS NOTHING LIKE THIS ONE.
THE NORMAL IMAGE OF AN ABANDONED CAT...
Abandoned cat. Please take care
...THE KIND OF PATHOS YOU USUALLY SEE.
I DON'T REALLY THINK IT HAS...
...A LITTLE TOO FAT FOR A REAL ABANDONED CAT...
BUT WITH THAT KIND OF APPEARANCE...
TRASH COLLECTION AREA


WELL... LOOKING LIKE THAT, EVEN IF IT ENDS UP NOT BEING ABLE TO EAT TOO MUCH...
カタ
CLACK
...IT SHOULD STILL MAKE IT THROUGH THE WINTER.

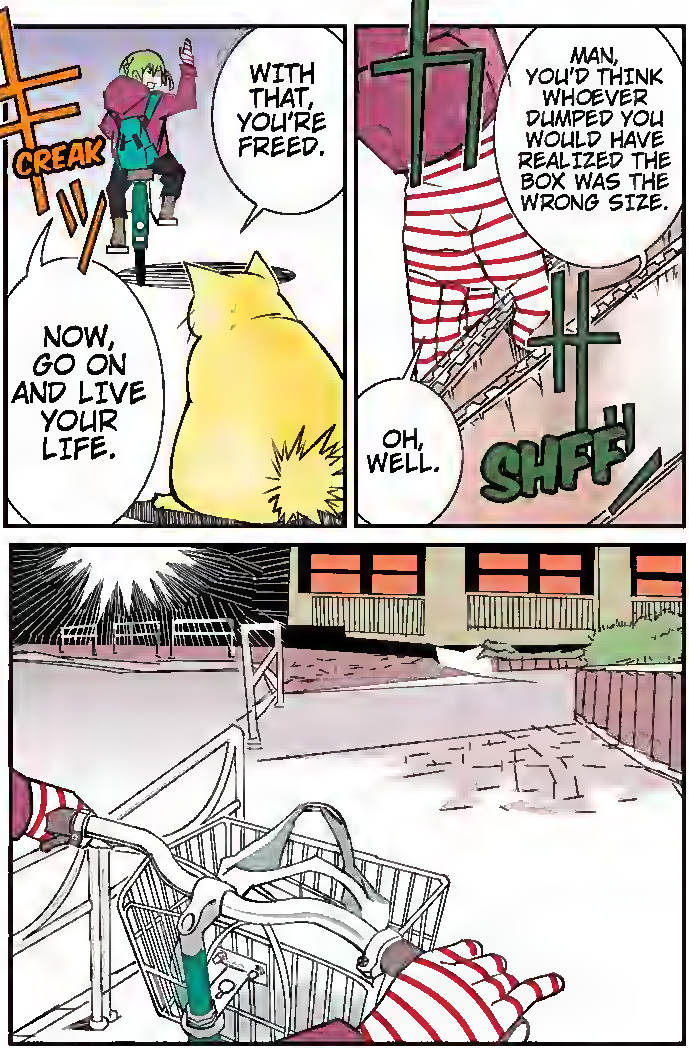
...OF ALL THE REASONS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABAN-DONED.
...IT MAKES ME THINK...
太すぎ
TOO FAT
食べすぎ
EATS TOO MUCH
かわいくなさすぎ
NOT CUTE ENOUGH


キコ
CREAK
キコ
CREAK
ハーIT
TRASH COLLECTION AREA

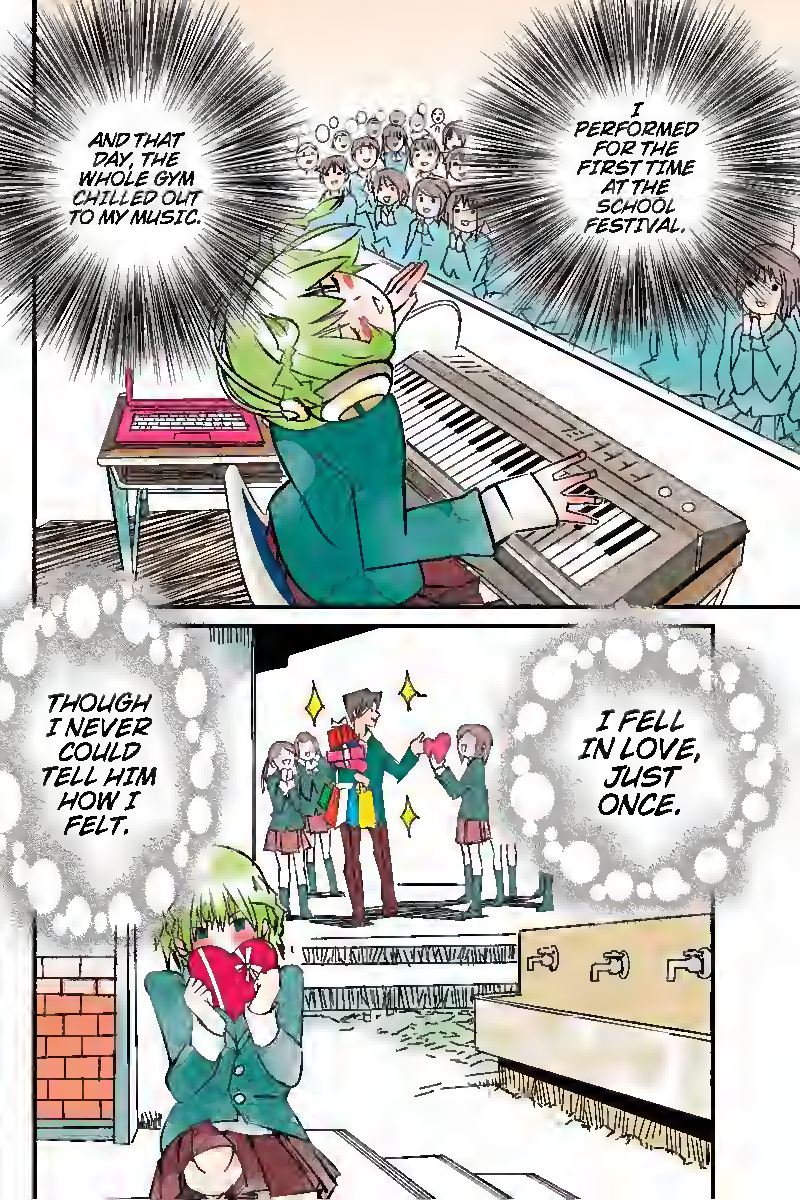

CREAK CREAK
キコキコ
GARBAGE TRUCK
RUMBLE
IT'S AN ABANDONED CAT; WE BETTER CALL PUBLIC HEALTH.
I GUESS SO.
Burnable trash
Burnable trash
Burnable trash
Burnable trash
Abandoned cat
TRANSPORT TO PUBLIC HEALTH
I MEAN, NO ONE'S GONNA PICK IT UP WITH IT ALL FAT LIKE THIS.
CREAK CREAK
キコキコ
ゴトゴト
CLACKETY
CLACKETY
ゴトゴト
...ANIME MOVIE I JUST SAW!
DARN! IT'S JUST LIKE THAT...
キィィィ
SCREE

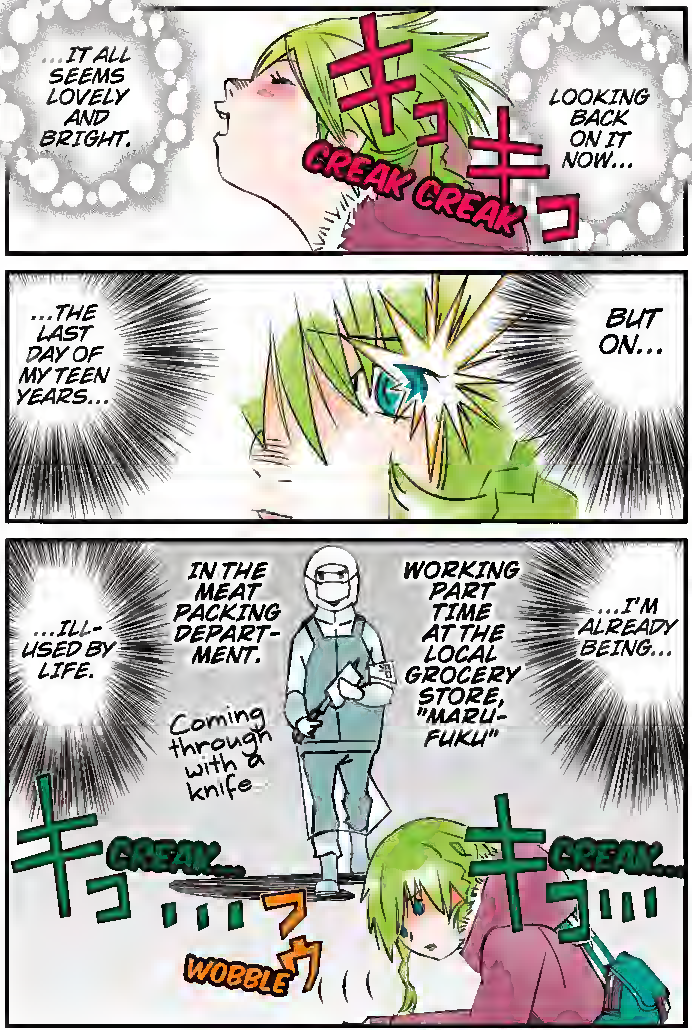
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MOVE YOU OUT OF THE TRASH!
ALL RIGHT!
スーッ!!
SWISH

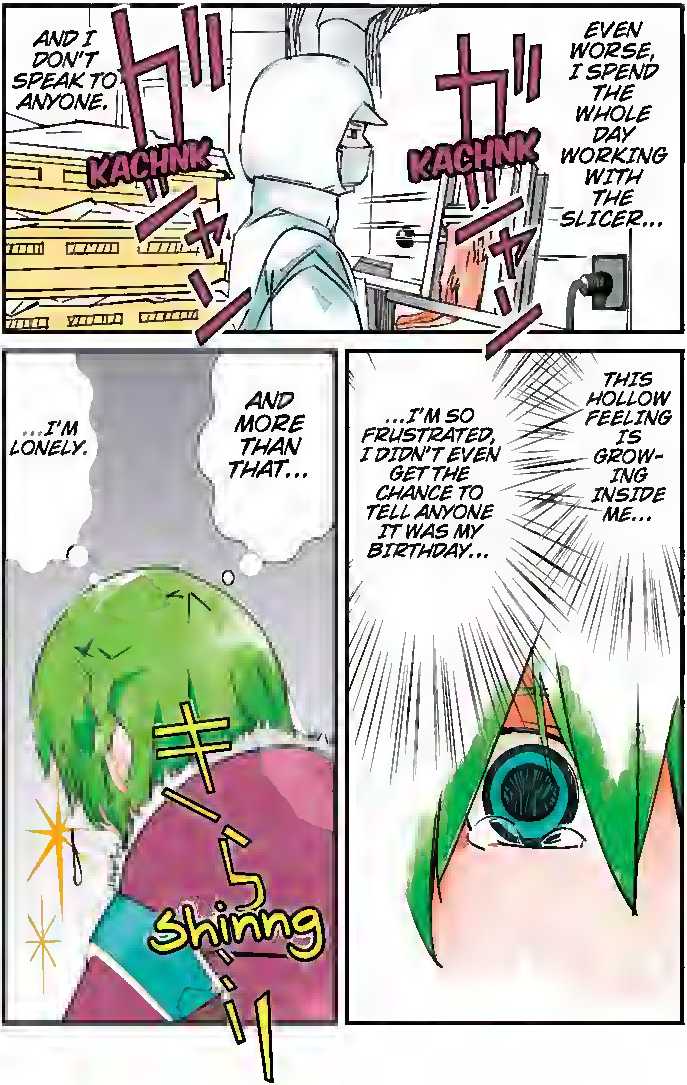
スポ
SHWOOF
トサ
FWUMP
IT'S SO HEAVY...
Shake shake
Tangerines
SHFF
JUST MY LUCK.
.....
gerines

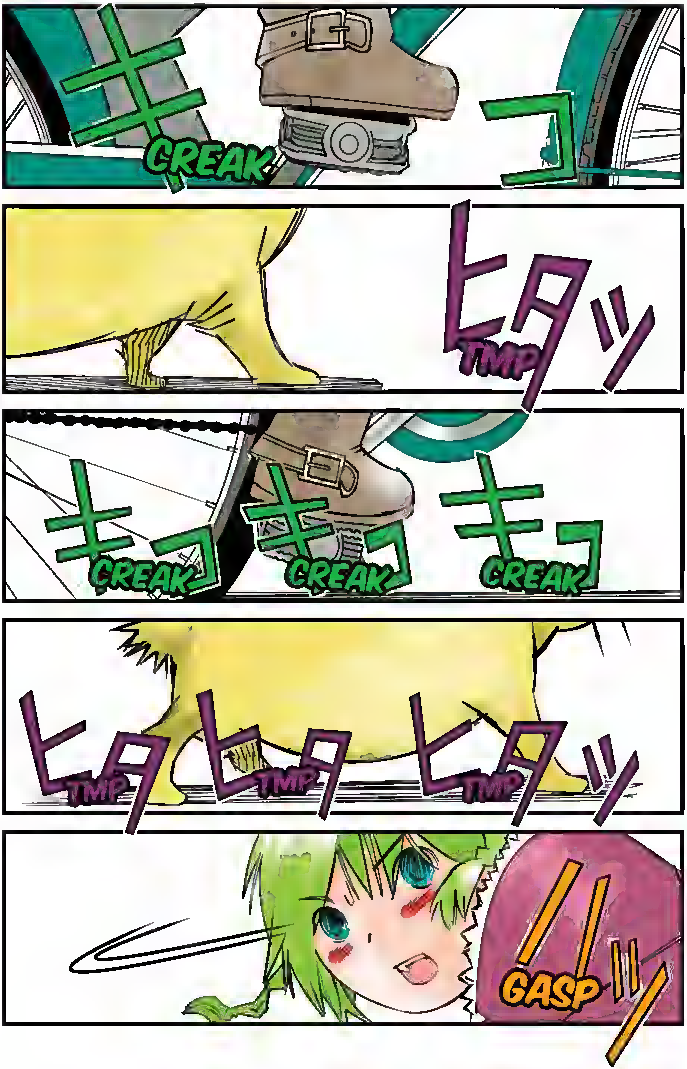

CREAK
WITH THAT, YOU'RE FREED.
NOW, GO ON AND LIVE YOUR LIFE.
MAN, YOU'D THINK WHOEVER DUMPED YOU WOULD HAVE REALIZED THE BOX WAS THE WRONG SIZE.
OH, WELL.
SHFF

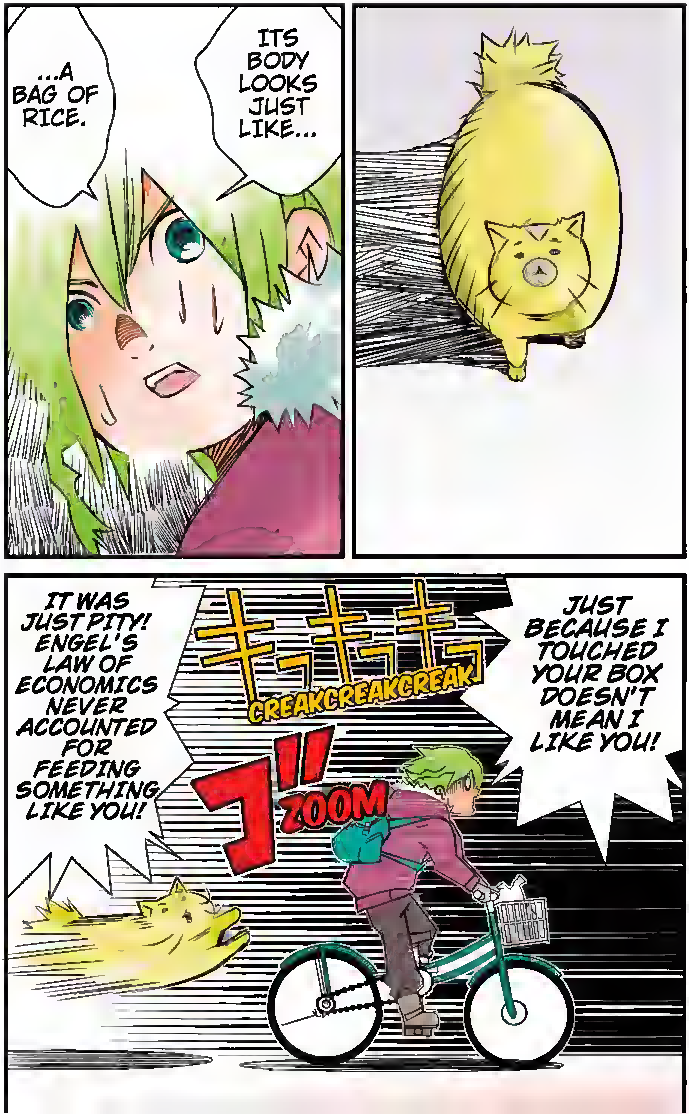
ON THE LAST NIGHT OF MY TEEN-AGE YEARS...
キコ CREAK
キコ CREAK
...I SAVED THE LIFE OF AN ABAN-DONED CAT.
MY TEEN YEARS...
...I FOUND MY CALLING...
MAKING MUSIC.

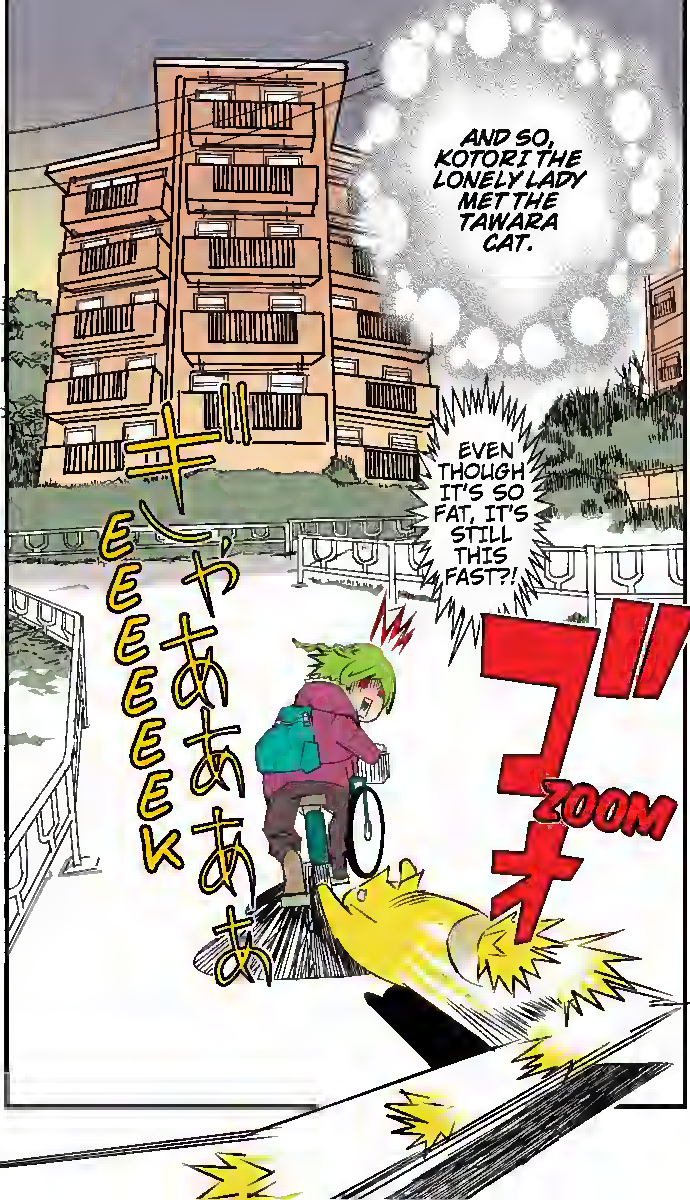

I PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
AND THAT DAY, THE WHOLE GYM CHILLED OUT TO MY MUSIC.
I FELL IN LOVE, JUST ONCE.
THOUGH I NEVER COULD TELL HIM HOW I FELT.


...IT ALL SEEMS LOVELY AND BRIGHT.
キコキコ
CREAK CREAK
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW...
...THE LAST DAY OF MY TEEN YEARS...
BUT ON...
...ILL-USED BY LIFE.
IN THE MEAT PACKING DEPART-MENT.
Coming through with a knife
WORKING PART TIME AT THE LOCAL GROCERY STORE, "MARU-FUKU"
...I'M ALREADY BEING...
キコ... CREAK...
WOBBLE
キコ... CREAK...


AND I DON'T SPEAK TO ANYONE.
KACHNK
KACHNK
EVEN WORSE, I SPEND THE WHOLE DAY WORKING WITH THE SLICER...
...I'M LONELY.
AND MORE THAN THAT...
shinng
...I'M SO FRUSTRATED, I DIDN'T EVEN GET THE CHANCE TO TELL ANYONE IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY...
THIS HOLLOW FEELING IS GROW-ING INSIDE ME...

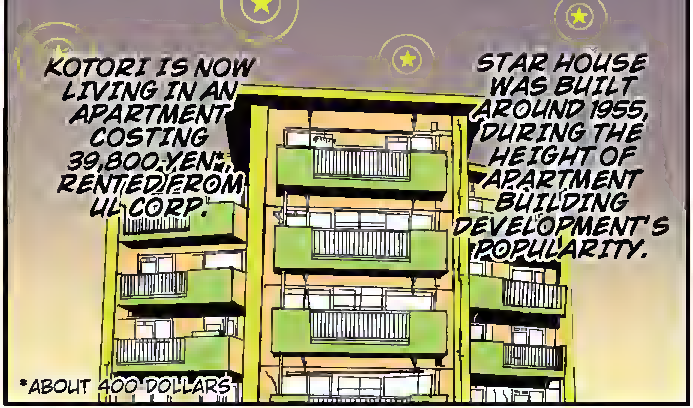

キコ
CREAK
ヒタッ
TMP
キコ
CREAK
キコ
CREAK
キコ
CREAK
ヒタ
TMP
ヒタ
TMP
ヒタッ
TMP
GASP

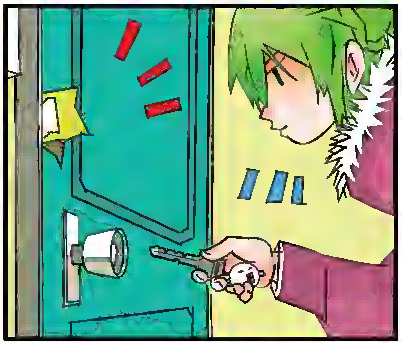

ITS BODY LOOKS JUST LIKE...
...A BAG OF RICE.
IT WAS JUST PITY! ENGEL'S LAW OF ECONOMICS NEVER ACCOUNTED FOR FEEDING SOMETHING LIKE YOU!
キコキコキコ
CREAKCREAKCREAK
ZOOM
JUST BECAUSE I TOUCHED YOUR BOX DOESN'T MEAN I LIKE YOU!

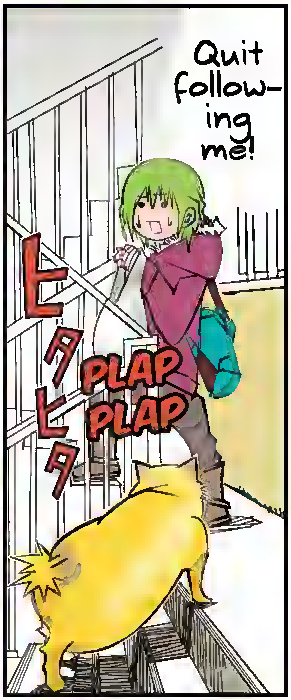

AND SO, KOTORI THE LONELY LADY MET THE TAWARA CAT.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO FAT, IT'S STILL THIS FAST?!
キャあああeeeeeek
ゴォ
ZOOM

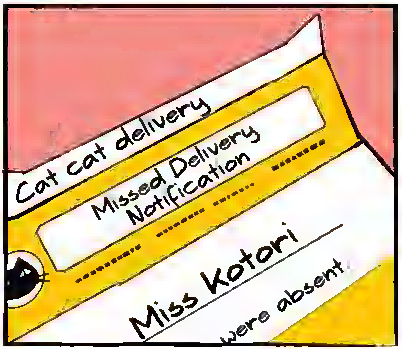
AND SO THE TAWARA CAT...
...FELL IN LOVE WITH A LONELY GIRL.
TAWARA CAT
TAWARA 2: KOTORI AND THE MENTAIKO
TORAKO HIDAKA
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN Inc.

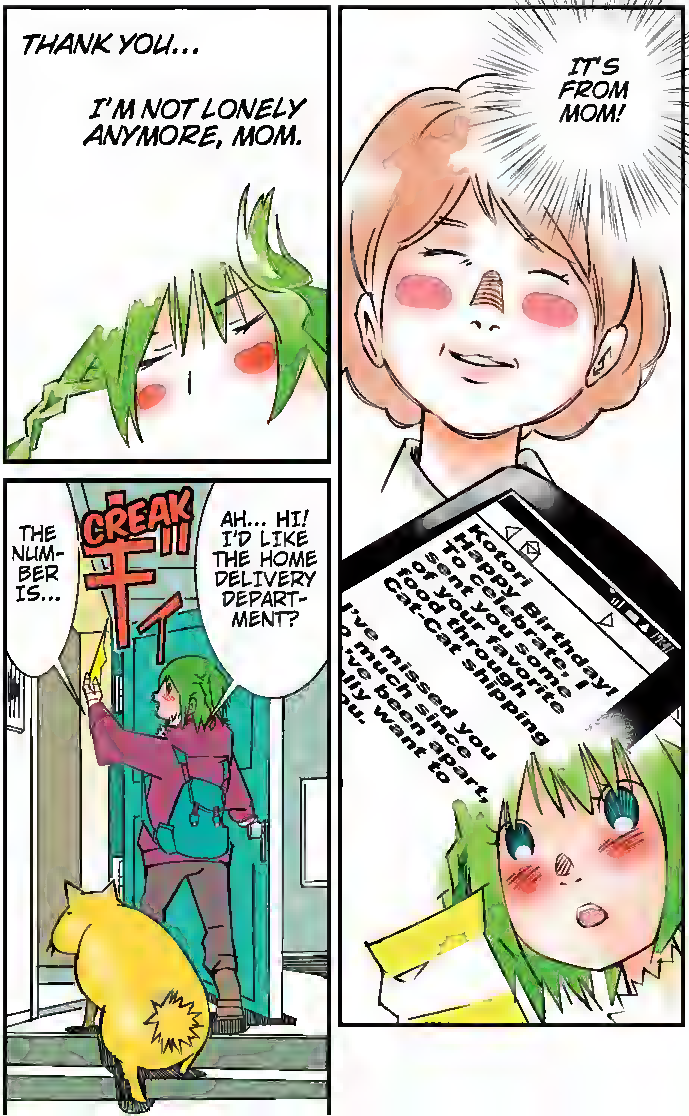
THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS

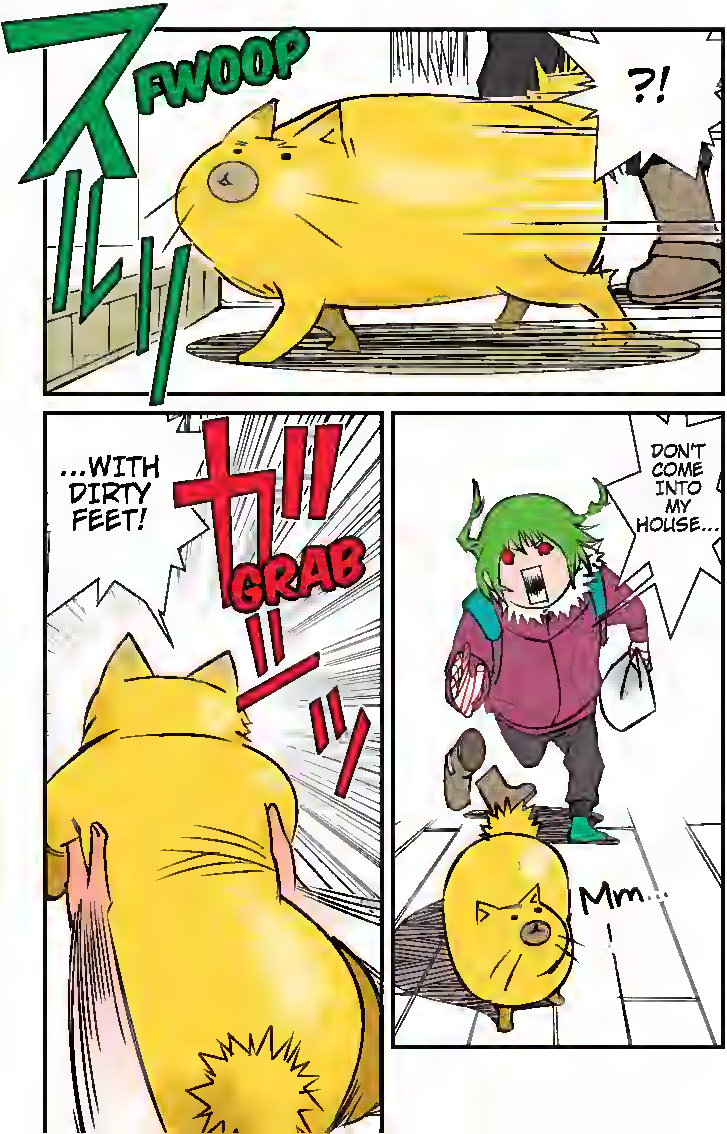

KOTORI IS NOW LIVING IN AN APARTMENT COSTING 39,800 YEN*, RENTED FROM UL CORP.
STAR HOUSE WAS BUILT AROUND 1955, DURING THE HEIGHT OF APARTMENT BUILDING DEVELOPMENT'S POPULARITY.
*ABOUT 400 DOLLARS



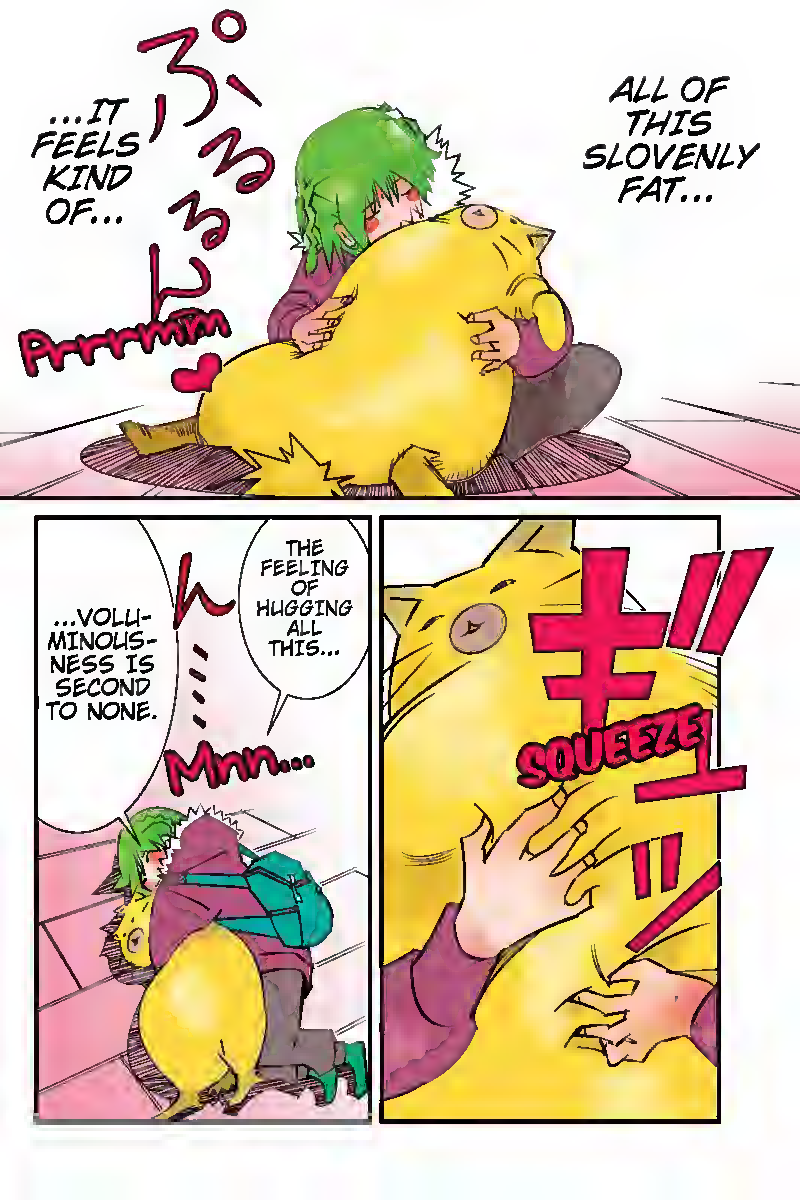

Quit following me!
トタトタ
PLAP PLAP

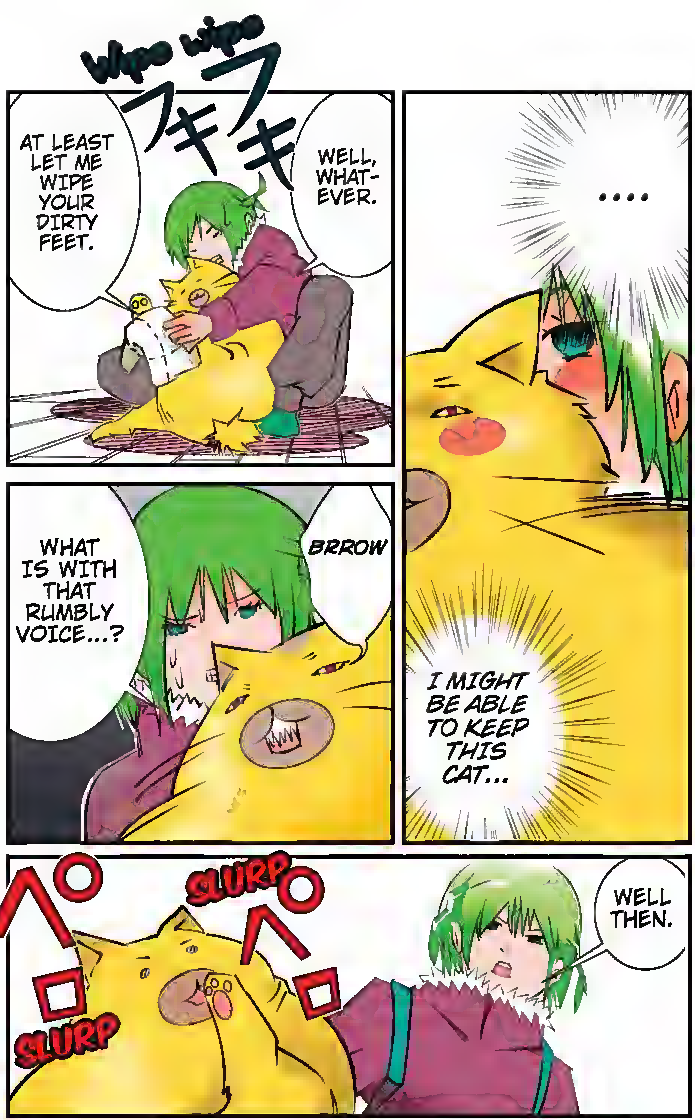

Cat cat delivery
Missed Delivery Notification
Miss Kotori
were absent

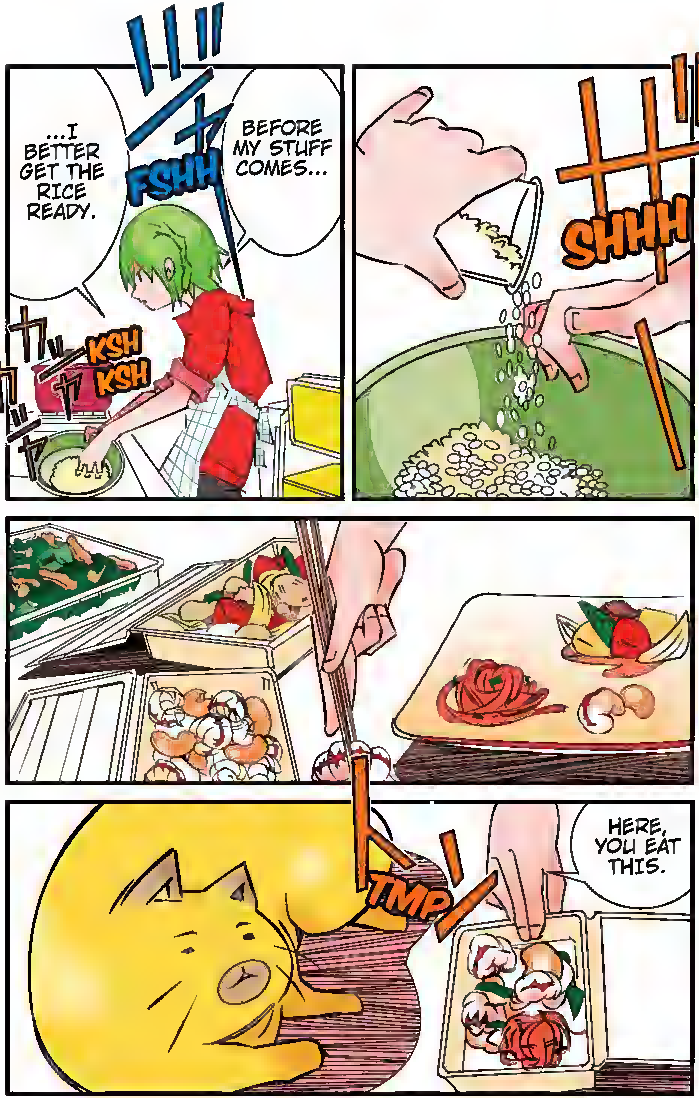

IT'S FROM MOM!
Kotori
Happy Birthday! To celebrate, I sent you some of your favorite food through Cat-Cat shipping
I've missed you so much since we've been apart, I've been really want to see you.
THANK YOU...
I'M NOT LONELY ANYMORE, MOM.
AH... HI! I'D LIKE THE HOME DELIVERY DEPARTMENT?
CREAK
THE NUMBER IS...

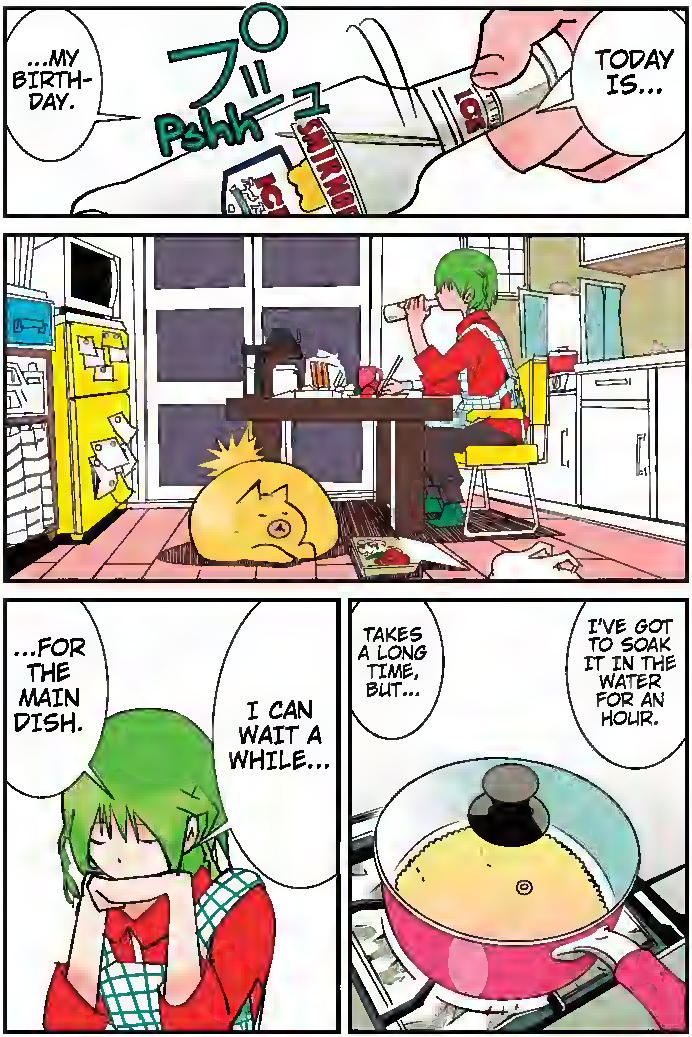

FWOOP
?!
DON'T COME INTO MY HOUSE...
Mm...
GRAB
...WITH DIRTY FEET!

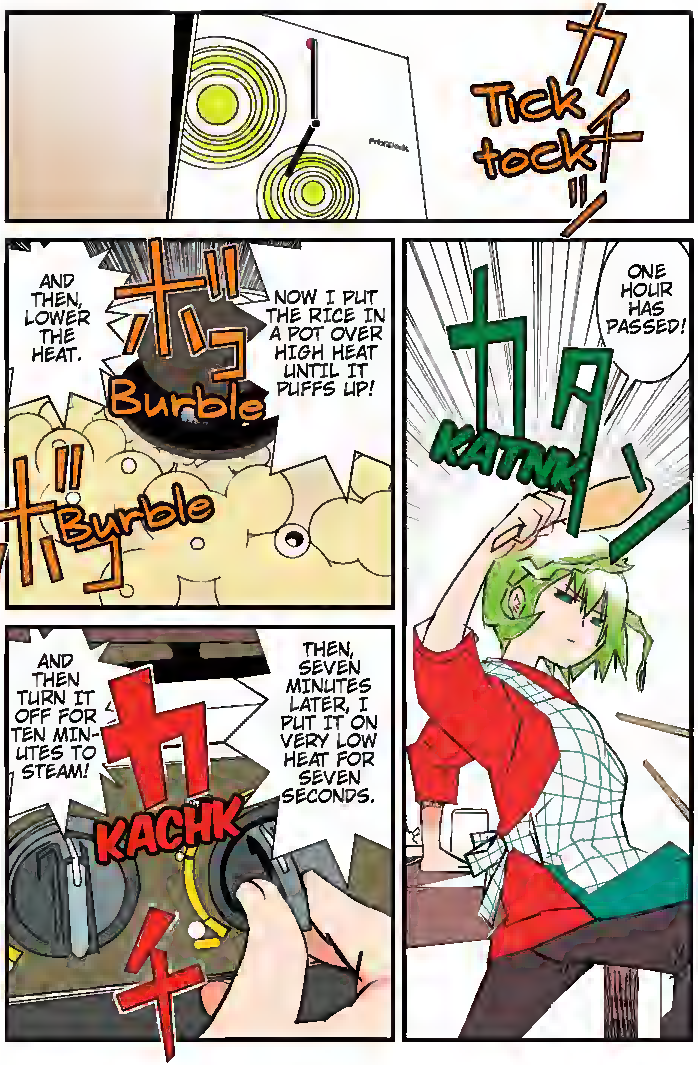
YOU'RE SO STRET-CHY...
WOAH?
FLOOP
ITS NECK IS...
...COM-PLETE-LY GONE.
BUT IT'S...
BUT...


...IT FEELS KIND OF...
ふにゅ
Prrrrrrm
ALL OF THIS SLOVENLY FAT...
THE FEELING OF HUGGING ALL THIS...
Hmm...
...VOLUMINOUSNESS IS SECOND TO NONE.
SQUEEZE

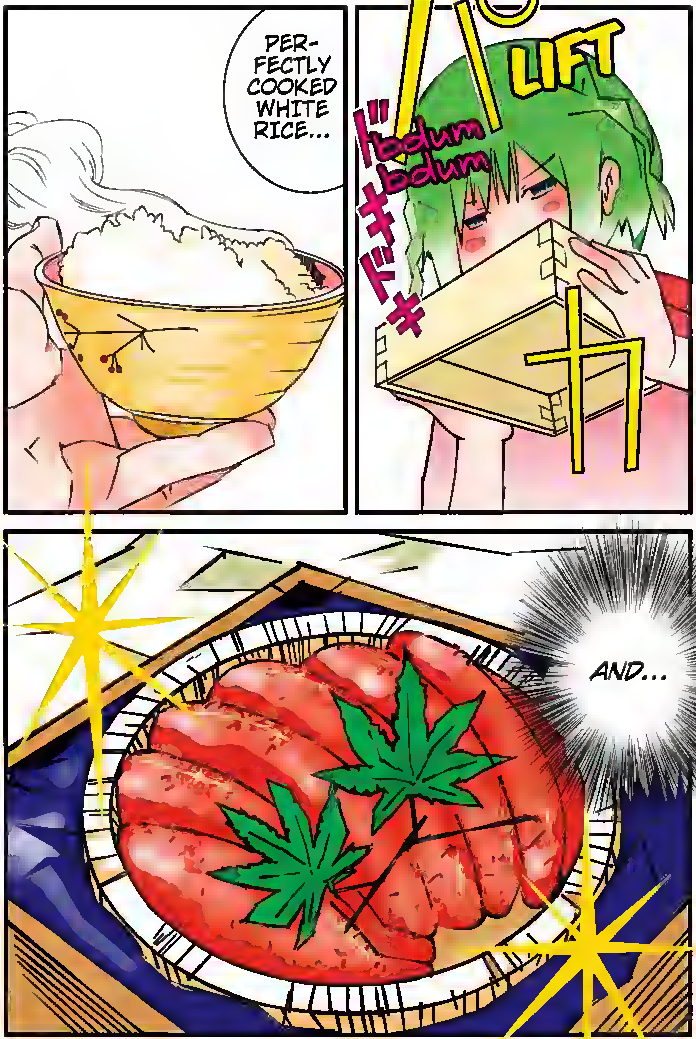

wipe wipe
フキフキ
AT LEAST LET ME WIPE YOUR DIRTY FEET.
WELL, WHATEVER.
....
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS CAT...
WHAT IS WITH THAT RUMBLY VOICE...?
BRROW
WELL THEN.
SLURP
SLURP

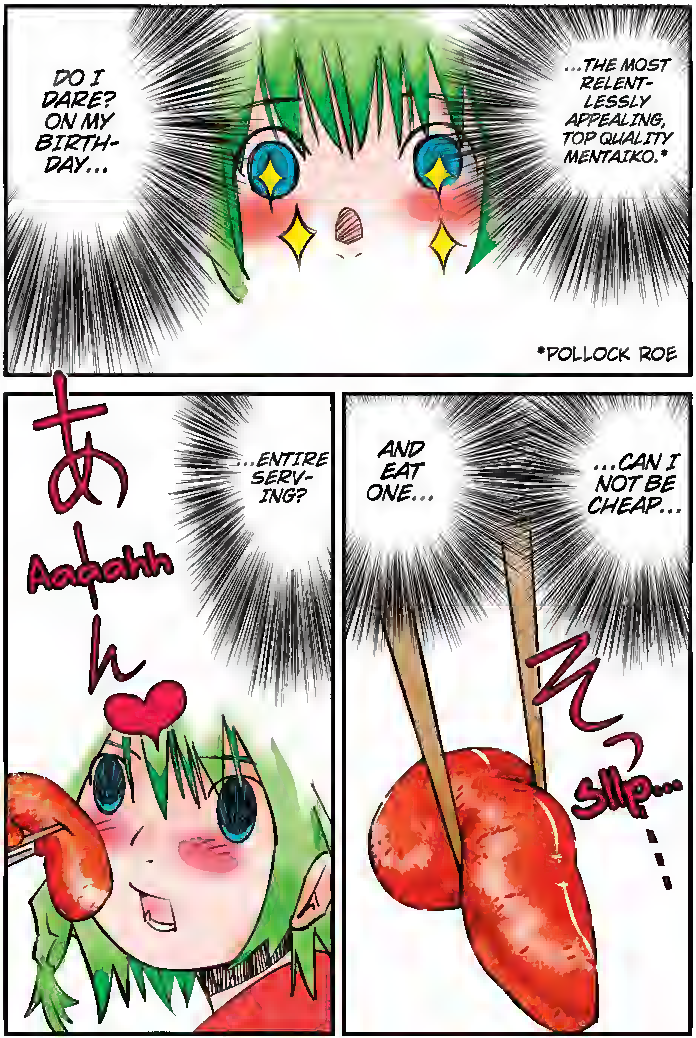

...I BETTER GET THE RICE READY.
FSHH
BEFORE MY STUFF COMES...
KSH KSH
SHHH
TMP
HERE, YOU EAT THIS.


TODAY IS...
プシュー
Pshh
SHIRAUO
...MY BIRTH-DAY.
I'VE GOT TO SOAK IT IN THE WATER FOR AN HOUR.
TAKES A LONG TIME, BUT...
I CAN WAIT A WHILE...
...FOR THE MAIN DISH.

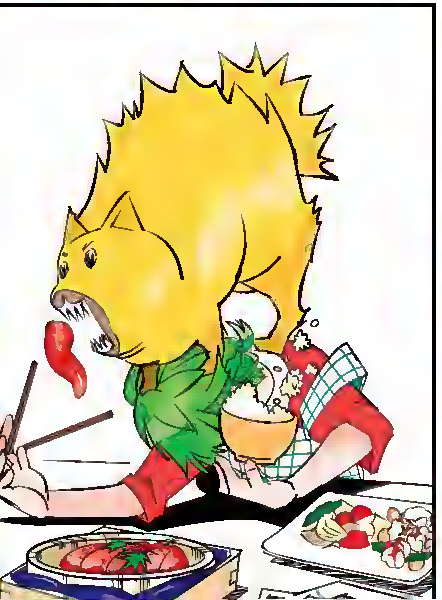

Tick tock
ONE HOUR HAS PASSED!
KATNK
NOW I PUT THE RICE IN A POT OVER HIGH HEAT UNTIL IT PUFFS UP!
Burble
Burble
AND THEN, LOWER THE HEAT.
THEN, SEVEN MINUTES LATER, I PUT IT ON VERY LOW HEAT FOR SEVEN SECONDS.
KACHK
AND THEN TURN IT OFF FOR TEN MINUTES TO STEAM!

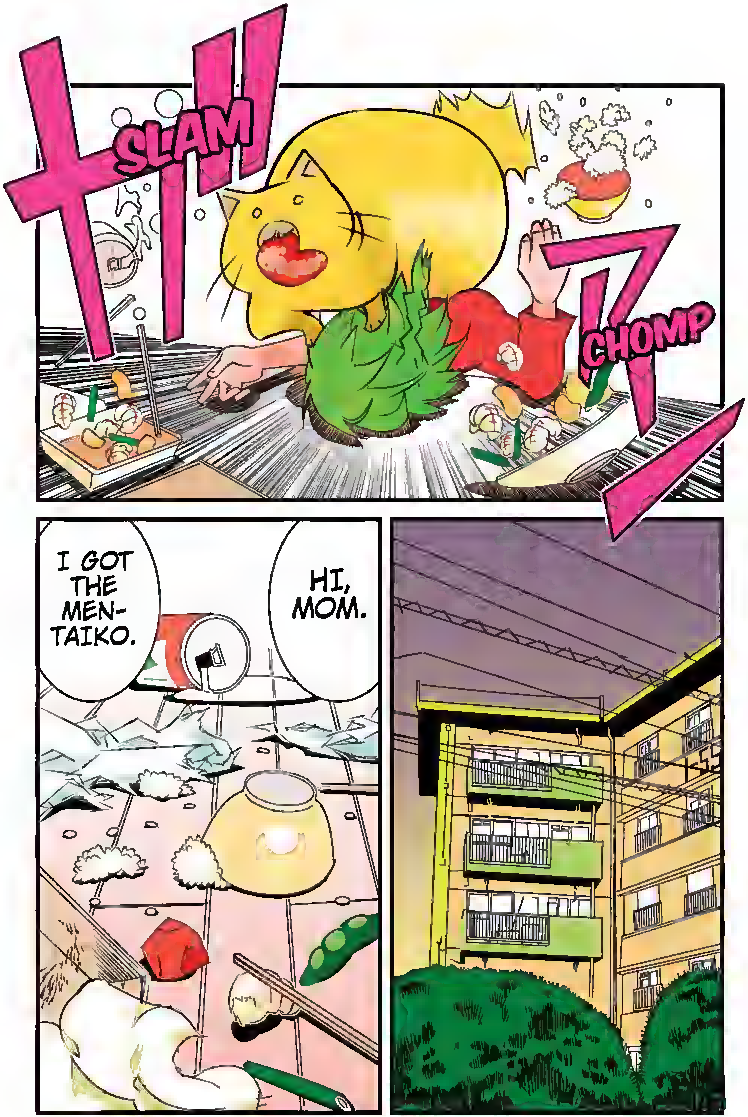
THERE IS...
...NOTHING BETTER THAN RICE COOKED...
...OVER A GAS FLAME.
Ding dong
COOL DELIVERY, MA'AM.
I'VE BEEN WAITING!

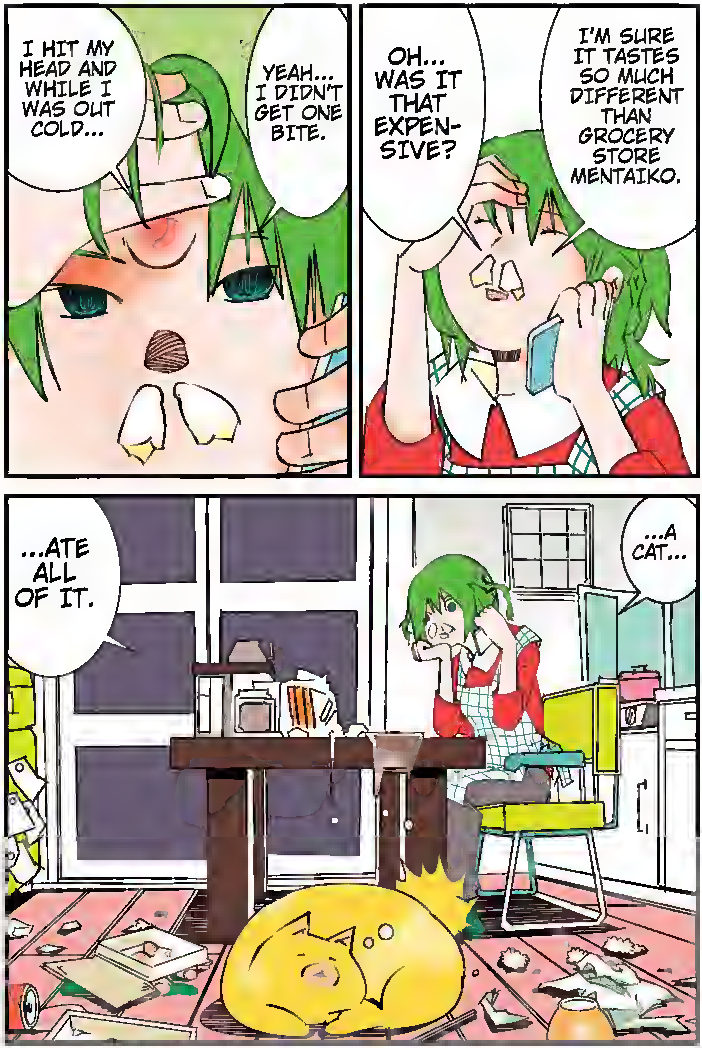

PERFECTLY COOKED WHITE RICE...
LIFT
bdum bdum
ドキドキ
AND...

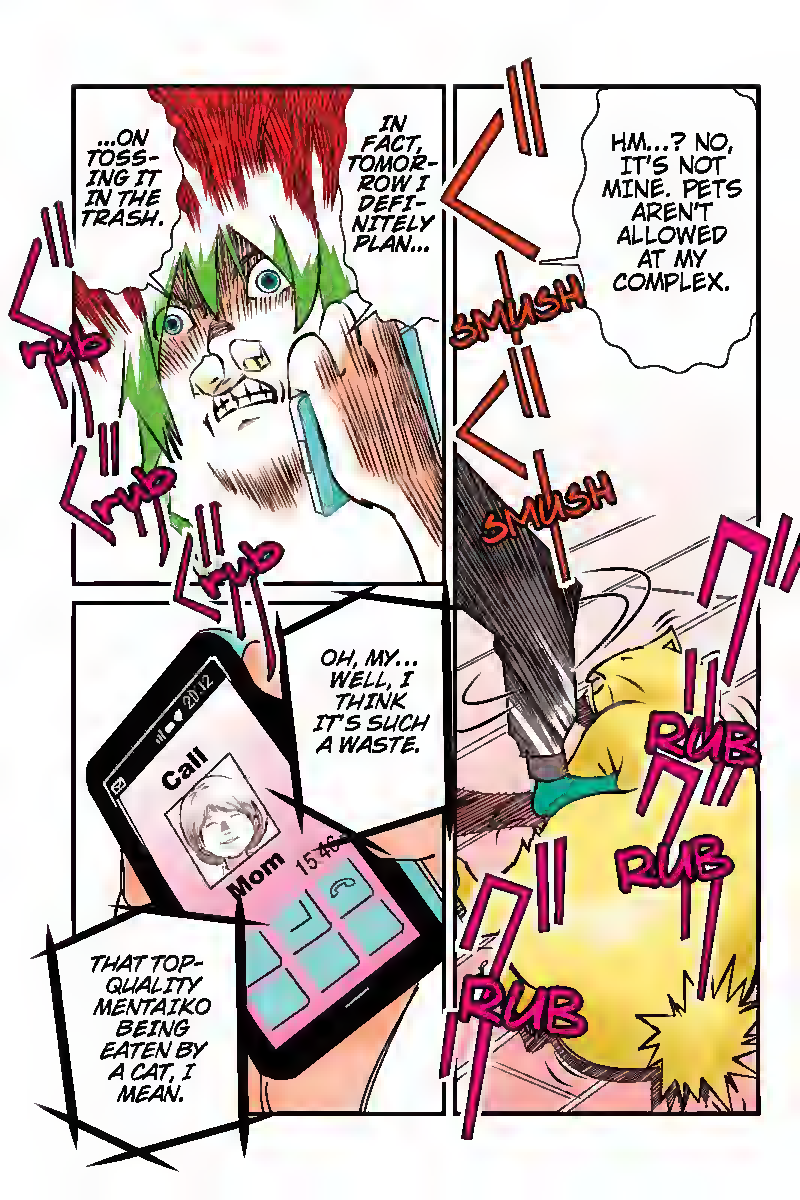

DO I DARE? ON MY BIRTH-DAY...
...THE MOST RELENT-LESSLY APPEALING, TOP QUALITY MENTAIKO.*
*POLLOCK ROE
あ
Aaaahh
ん
...ENTIRE SERV-ING?
AND EAT ONE...
...CAN I NOT BE CHEAP...
slip...

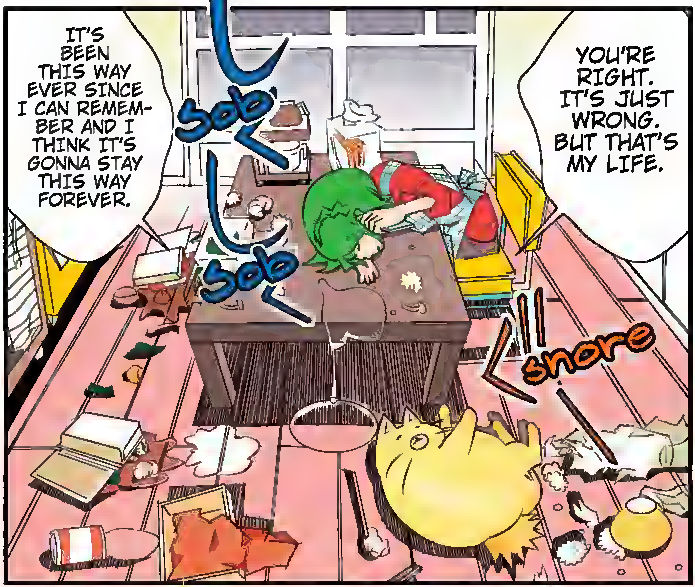
STOMP

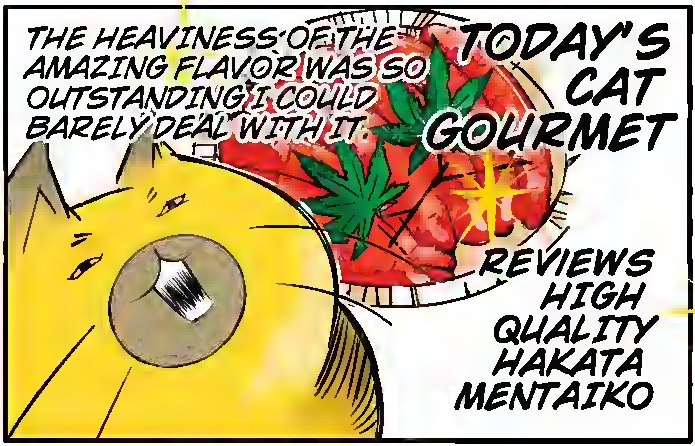


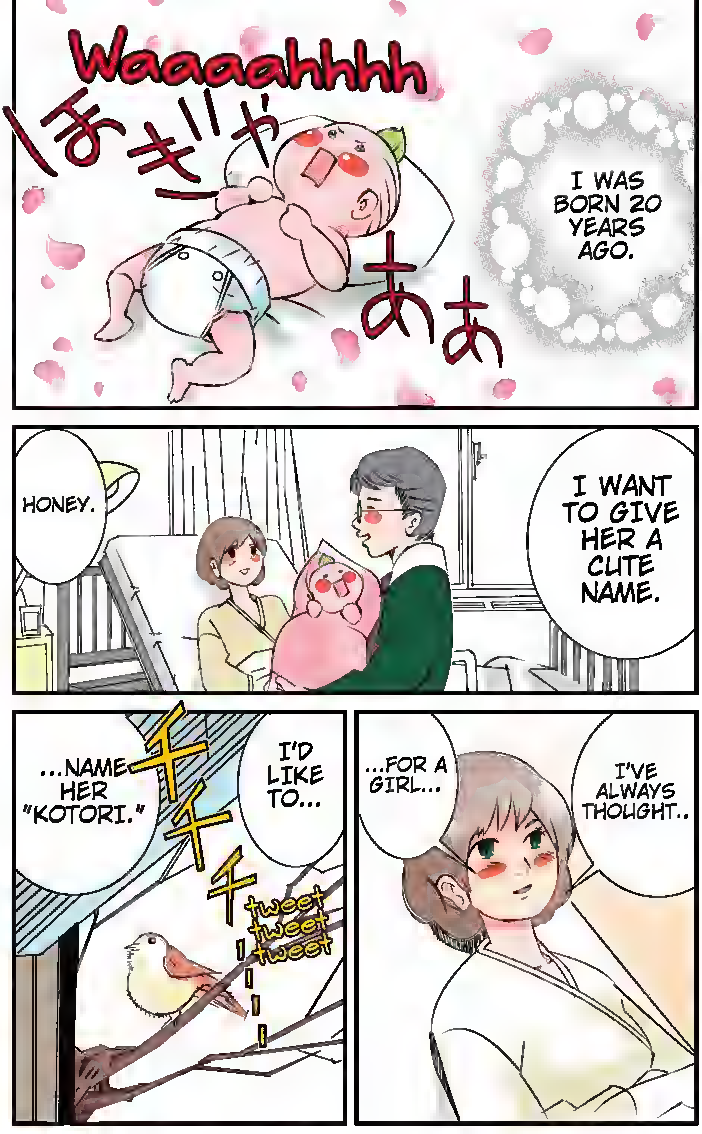

SLAM
CHOMP
I GOT THE MEN-TAIKO.
HI, MOM.


I HIT MY HEAD AND WHILE I WAS OUT COLD...
YEAH... I DIDN'T GET ONE BITE.
OH... WAS IT THAT EXPEN-SIVE?
I'M SURE IT TASTES SO MUCH DIFFERENT THAN GROCERY STORE MENTAIKO.
...ATE ALL OF IT.
...A CAT...

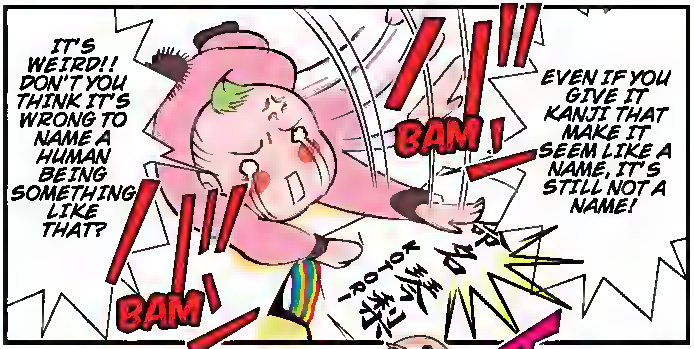

HM...? NO, IT'S NOT MINE. PETS AREN'T ALLOWED AT MY COMPLEX.
SMUSH
SMUSH
RUB
RUB
RUB
IN FACT, TOMORROW I DEFINITELY PLAN...
...ON TOSSING IT IN THE TRASH.
RUB
RUB
RUB
OH, MY... WELL, I THINK IT'S SUCH A WASTE.
Call
Mom
THAT TOP-QUALITY MENTAIKO BEING EATEN BY A CAT, I MEAN.


IT'S BEEN THIS WAY EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER AND I THINK IT'S GONNA STAY THIS WAY FOREVER.
sob
sob
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S JUST WRONG. BUT THAT'S MY LIFE.
snore

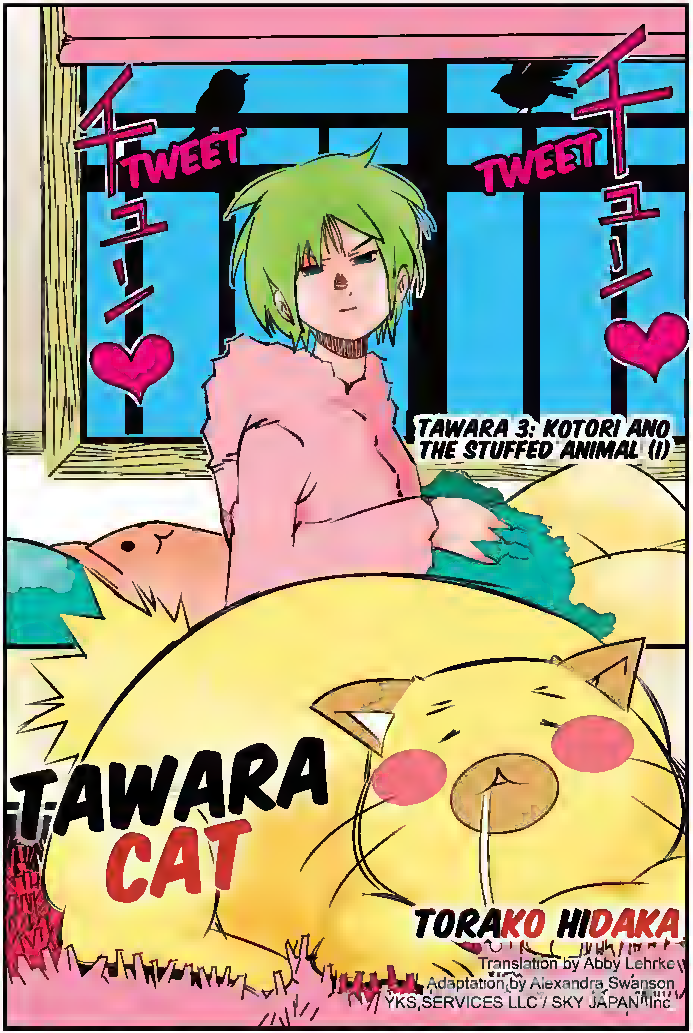

THE HEAVINESS OF THE AMAZING FLAVOR WAS SO OUTSTANDING I COULD BARELY DEAL WITH IT.
TODAY'S CAT GOURMET
REVIEWS HIGH QUALITY HAKATA MENTAIKO


Waaaahhhh
ほぎゃあ
I WAS BORN 20 YEARS AGO.
HONEY.
I WANT TO GIVE HER A CUTE NAME.
...NAME HER "KOTORI."
I'D LIKE TO...
チチチ
tweet tweet tweet
...FOR A GIRL...
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT..

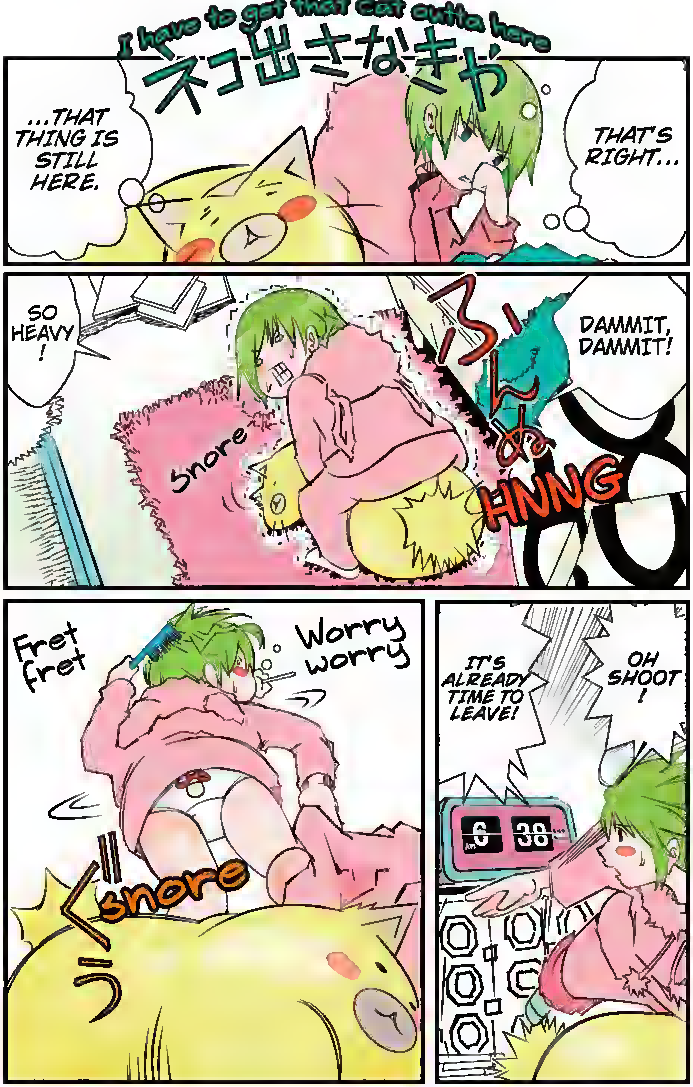
The heck is this?!
-KOKO-
MOTHER SAKURIYA
FATHER SAKURIYA
MARCH 1ST 1994
I'M A HUMAN !!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, THAT MEANS BABY BIRD! I'M NOT A BIRD!


IT'S WEIRD!! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WRONG TO NAME A HUMAN BEING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
BAM!
BAM!
EVEN IF YOU GIVE IT KANJI THAT MAKE IT SEEM LIKE A NAME, IT'S STILL NOT A NAME!
-KOKO-

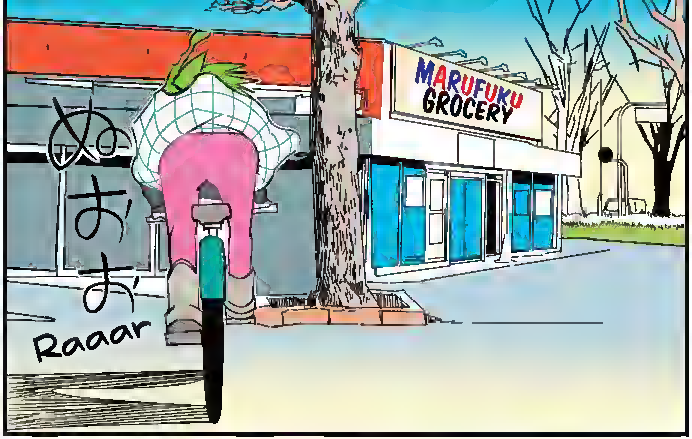
チュ
TWEET
...WRONG EVER SINCE I WAS BORN.
MY LIFE HAS BEEN WRONG...
20 YEARS OLD
15 YEARS OLD
10 YEARS OLD
5 YEARS OLD
0 YEARS OLD

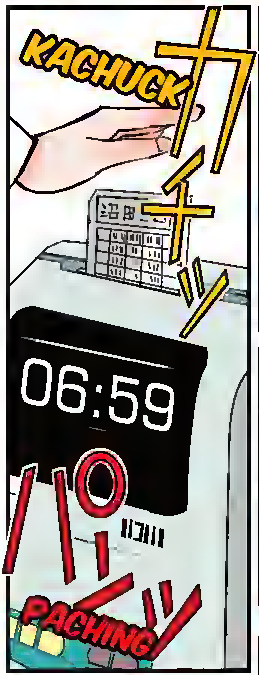


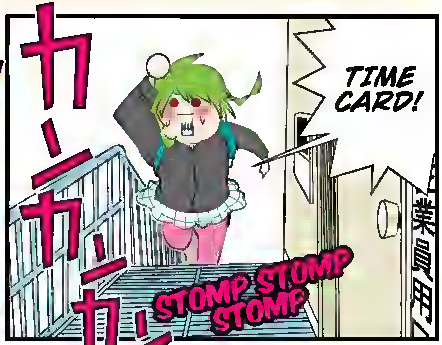
THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS

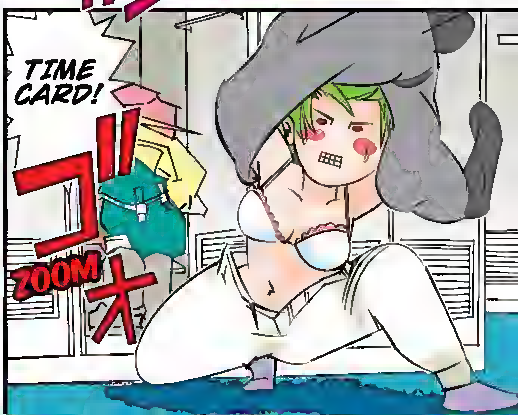

I have to get that cat outta here
ネコ出さなきゃ
...THAT THING IS STILL HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT...
SO HEAVY!
Snore
ろんde
DAMMIT, DAMMIT!
HNNG
Fret fret
Worry worry
snore
IT'S ALREADY TIME TO LEAVE!
OH SHOOT!
6
38

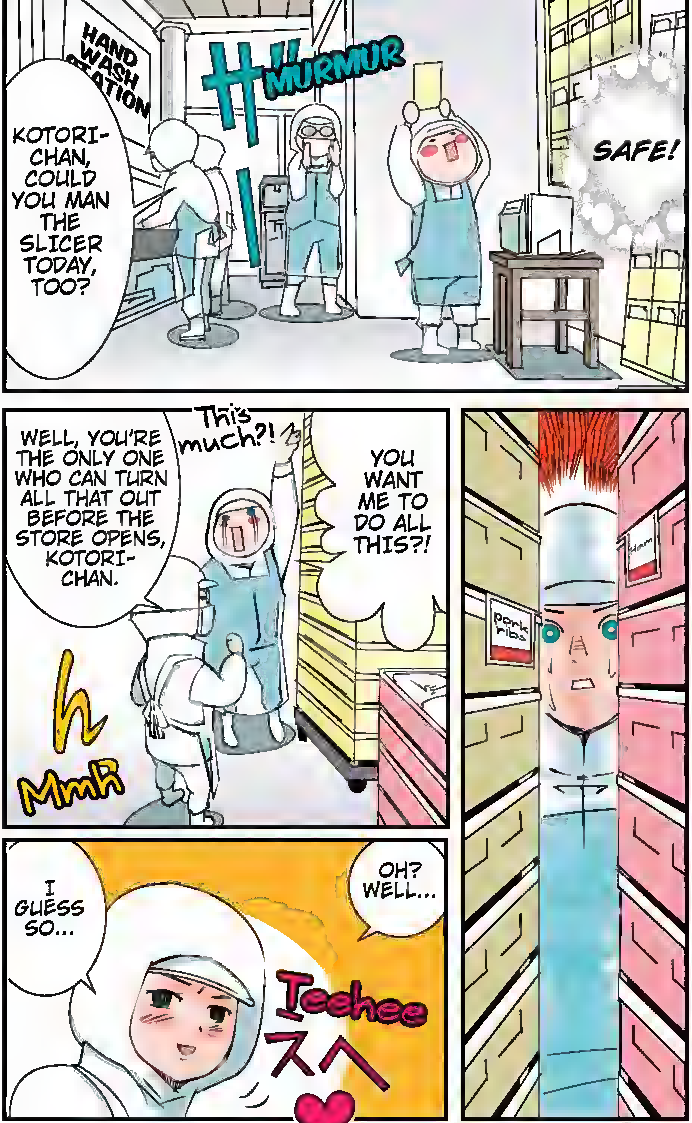
stomp stomp stomp stomp
SCHNORR
creakity creakity


MARUFUKU
GROCERY
ぬおお
Raaar

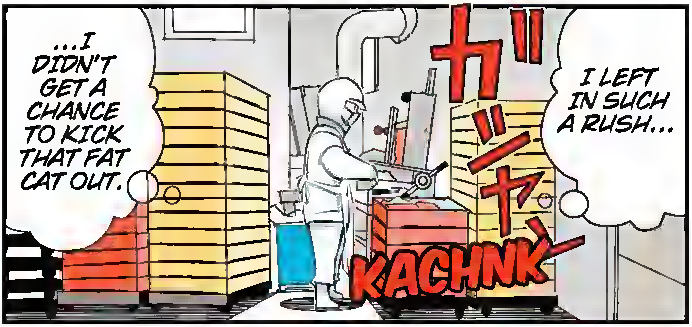

KACHUCK
カチッ
06:59
パッ
PACHING

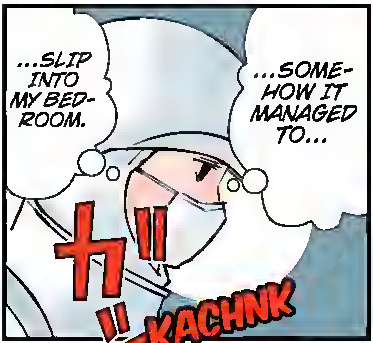

TIME CARD!
カーカーカン
STOMP STOMP STOMP
業務用


TIME CARD!
ゴリ
ZOOM
オ

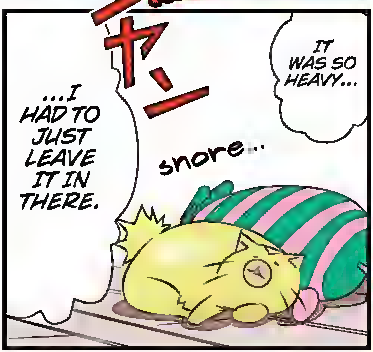

HAND WASH STATION
KOTORI-CHAN, COULD YOU MAN THE SLICER TODAY, TOO?
HMMURMUR
SAFE!
YOU WANT ME TO DO ALL THIS?!
This much?!
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TURN ALL THAT OUT BEFORE THE STORE OPENS, KOTORI-CHAN.
Mmh
Pork ribs
OH? WELL...
I GUESS SO...
Teehee
スヘ

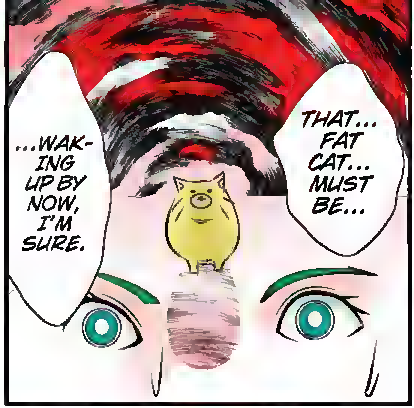
カ
KACHK
チッ
カ
KACHNK
KACHNK
KACHNK
カ
カ
KACHNK
カ
KACHNK

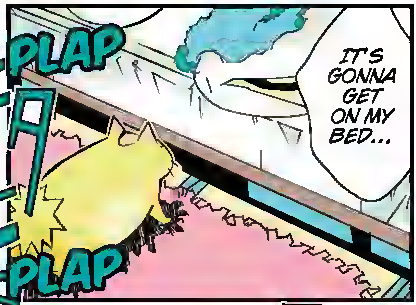

...I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO KICK THAT FAT CAT OUT.
I LEFT IN SUCH A RUSH...
KACHNK

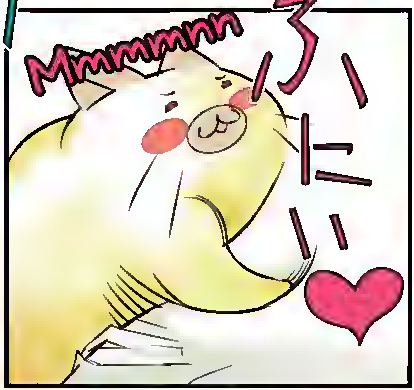

...SLIP INTO MY BED-ROOM.
...SOME-HOW IT MANAGED TO...
KACHNK

...I WAS SO CAUGHT UP CLEANING UP THE MESS...
Shoop
Shoop
AFTER IT MESSED UP THE KITCHEN LAST NIGHT...
Slip...

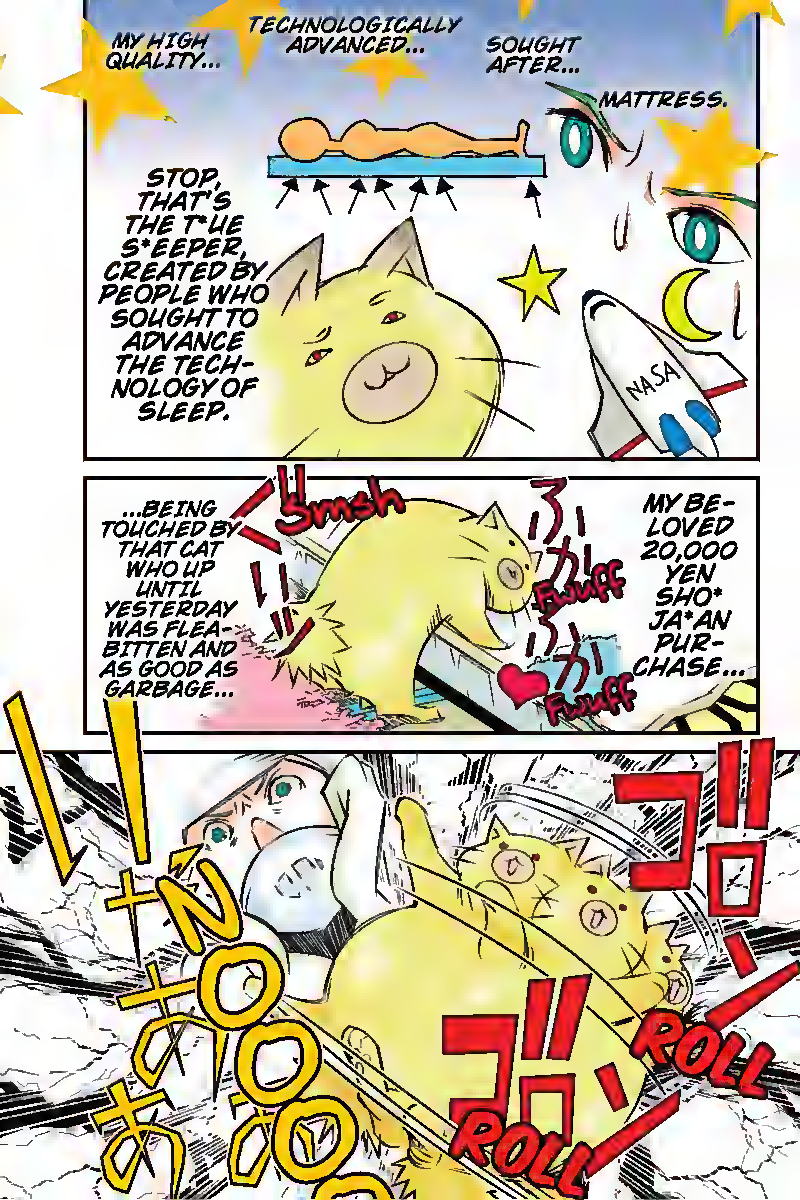

...I HAD TO JUST LEAVE IT IN THERE.
IT WAS SO HEAVY...
snore...

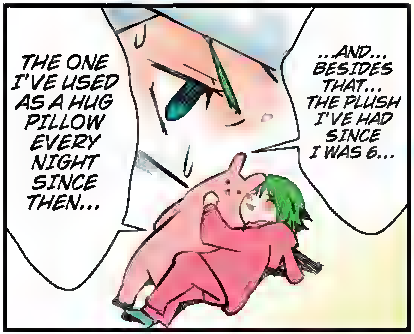

...WAKING UP BY NOW, I'M SURE.
THAT... FAT CAT... MUST BE...

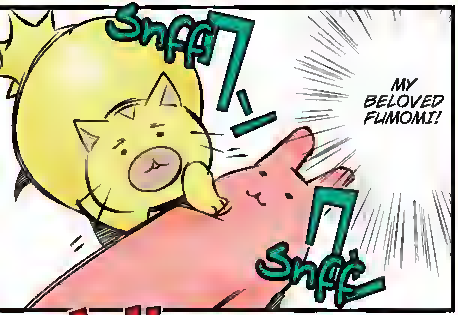

PLAP
PLAP
IT'S GONNA GET ON MY BED...

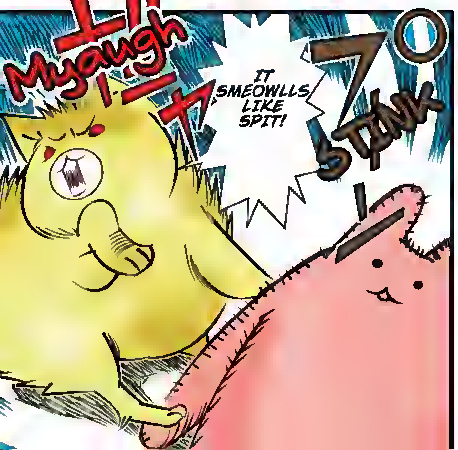

Mmmmm

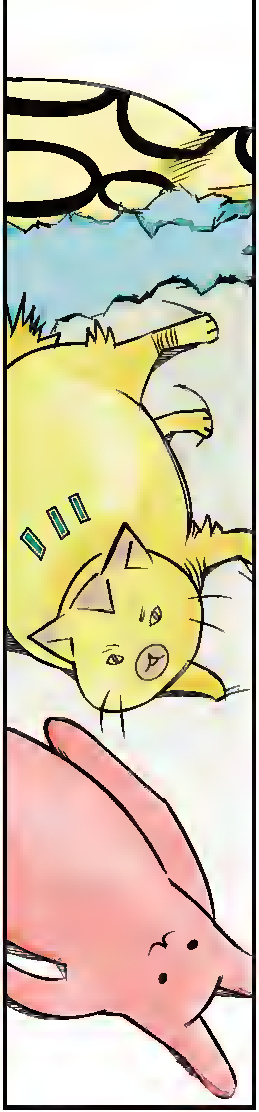
GASP
BLINK

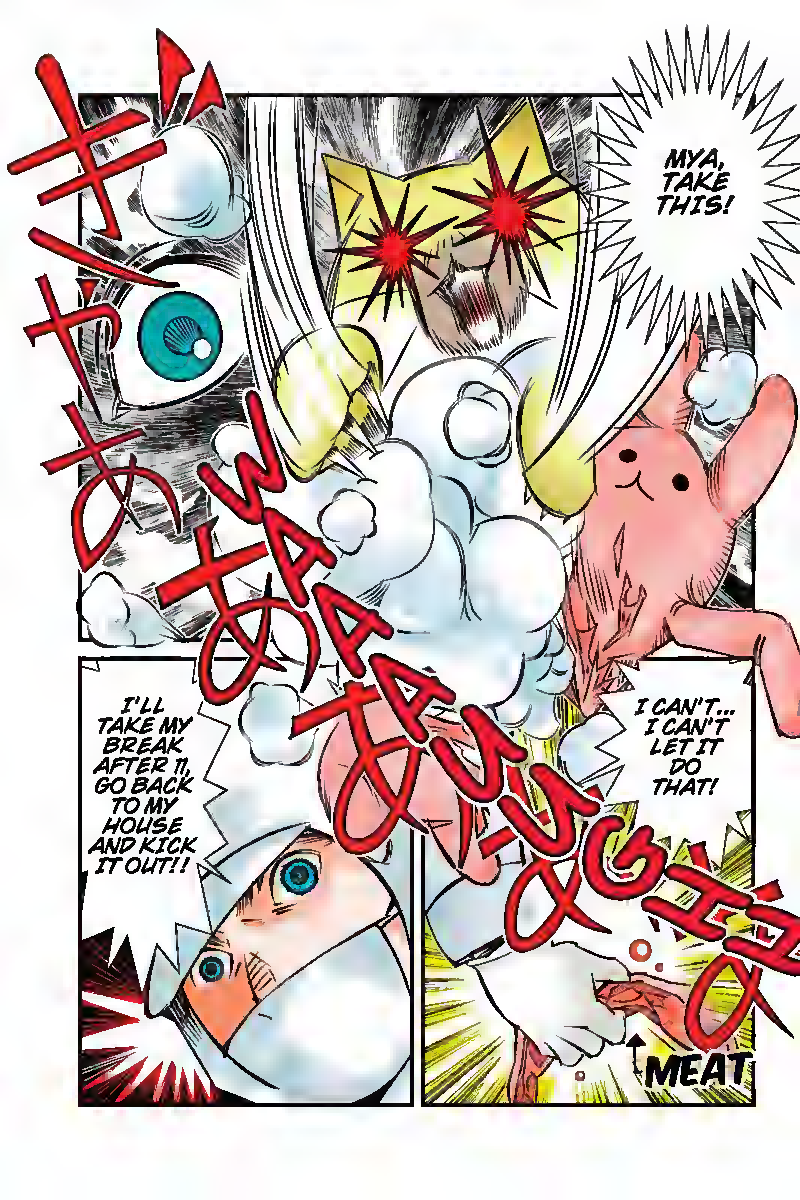

MY HIGH QUALITY...
TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED...
SOUGHT AFTER...
MATTRESS.
STOP, THAT'S THE T*UE S*EEPER, CREATED BY PEOPLE WHO SOUGHT TO ADVANCE THE TECHNOLOGY OF SLEEP.
NASA
...BEING TOUCHED BY THAT CAT WHO UP UNTIL YESTERDAY WAS FLEA-BITTEN AND AS GOOD AS GARBAGE...
Smsh
Fwuff
Fwuff
MY BELOVED 20,000 YEN SHO*JA*AN PURCHASE...
ROLL
ROLL

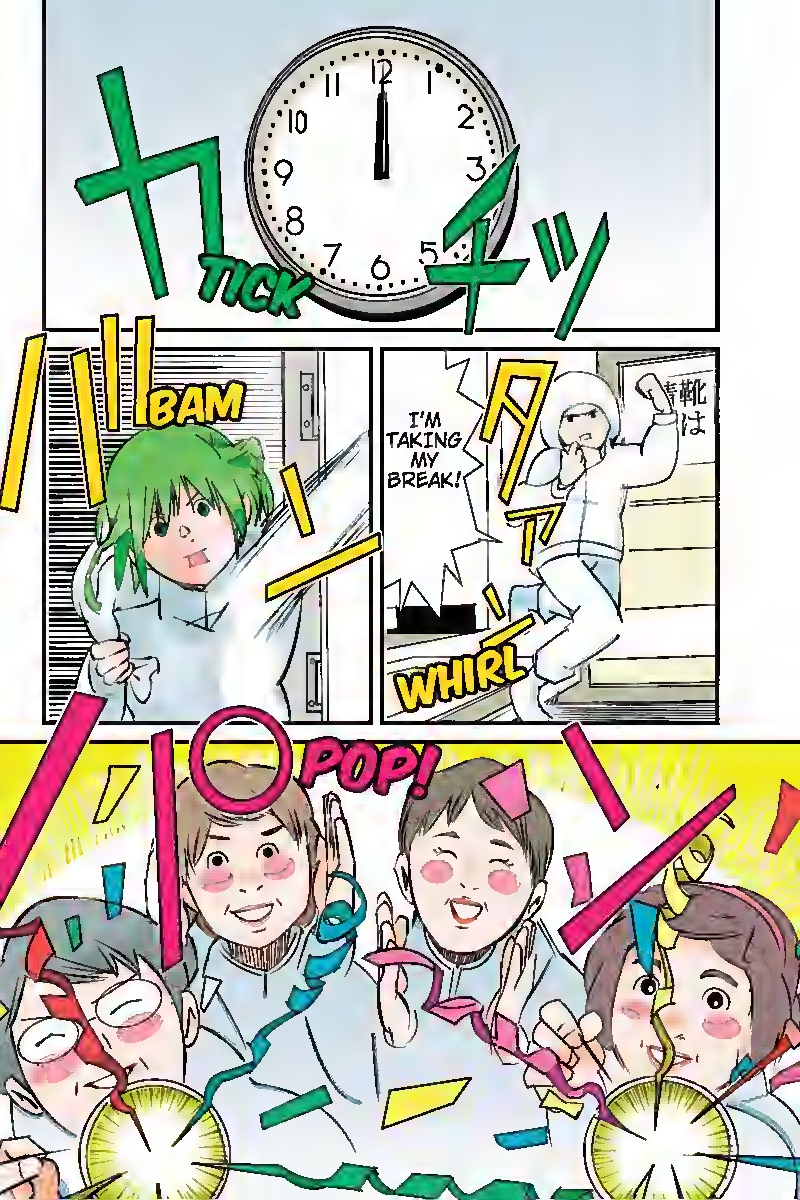

THE ONE I'VE USED AS A HUG PILLOW EVERY NIGHT SINCE THEN...
...AND... BESIDES THAT... THE PLUSH I'VE HAD SINCE I WAS 6...

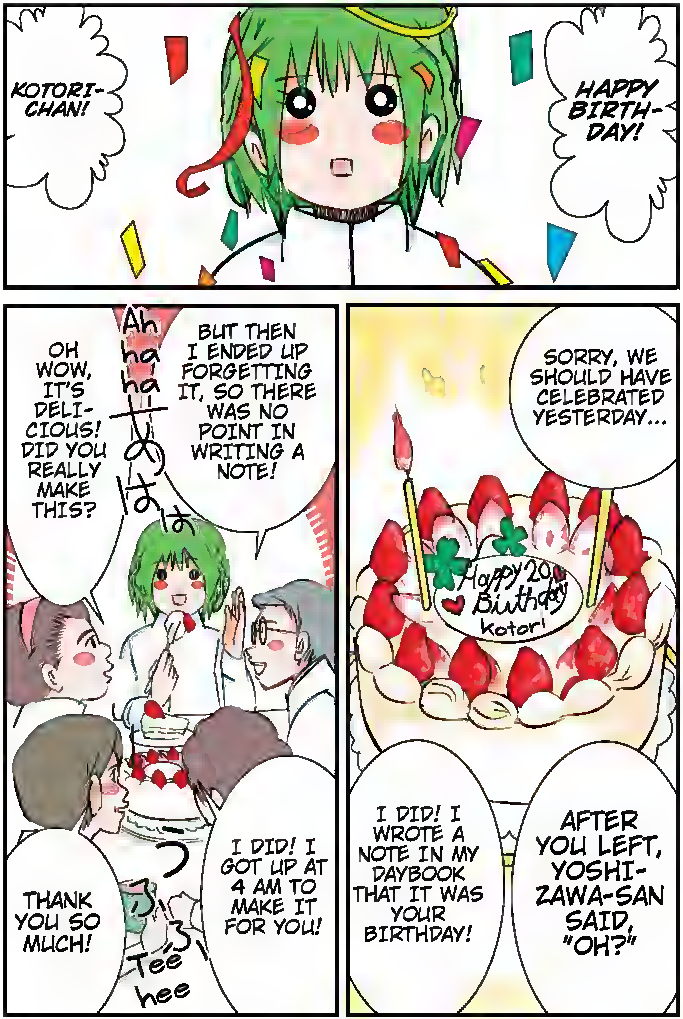

Sniff
Sniff
MY BELOVED FUMOMI!

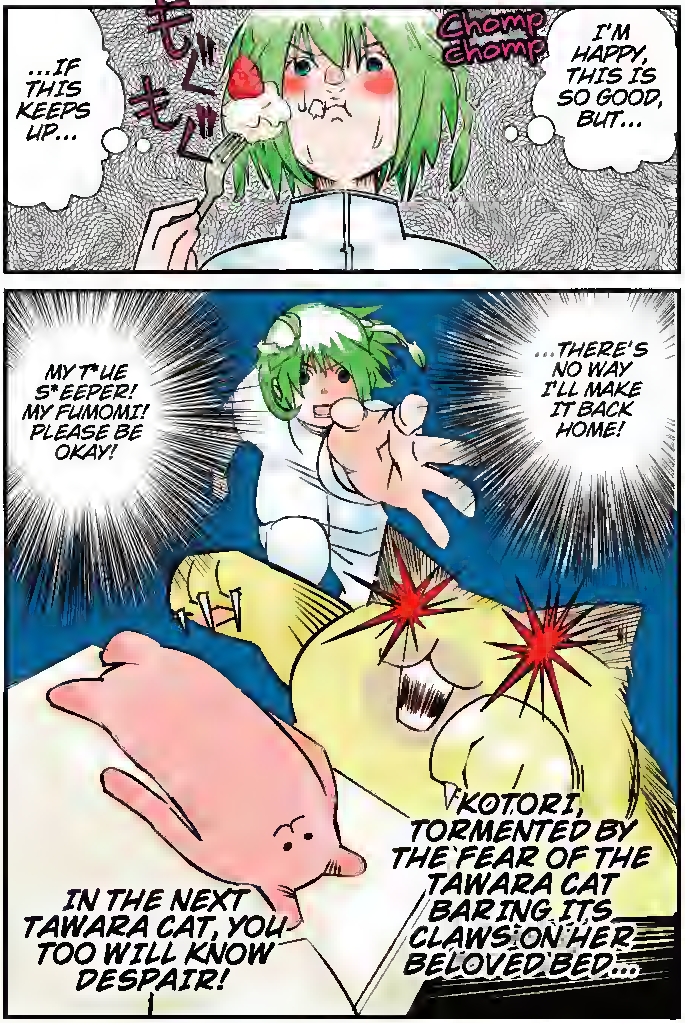

Myaugh!
IT SMEOWLLS LIKE SPIT!
STINK!



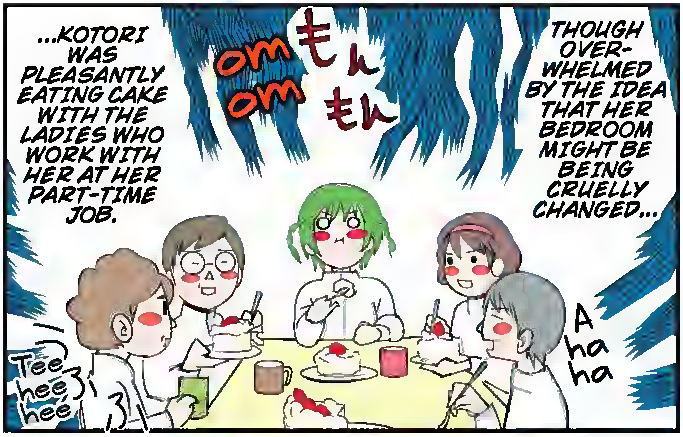

MYA, TAKE THIS!
I'LL TAKE MY BREAK AFTER I, GO BACK TO MY HOUSE AND KICK IT OUT!!
I CAN'T... I CAN'T LET IT DO THAT!
MEAT


TICK
カチッ
BAM
ハッ
I'M TAKING MY BREAK!
靴は
WHIRL
クルッ
POP!
ポン


KOTORI-CHAN!
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!
SORRY, WE SHOULD HAVE CELEBRATED YESTERDAY...
Happy 20th Birthday kotori
I DID! I WROTE A NOTE IN MY DAYBOOK THAT IT WAS YOUR BIRTHDAY!
AFTER YOU LEFT, YOSHI-ZAWA-SAN SAID, "OH?"
BUT THEN I ENDED UP FORGETTING IT, SO THERE WAS NO POINT IN WRITING A NOTE!
Ahahaは
OH WOW, IT'S DELI-CIOUS! DID YOU REALLY MAKE THIS?
I DID! I GOT UP AT 4 AM TO MAKE IT FOR YOU!
Tee hee
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

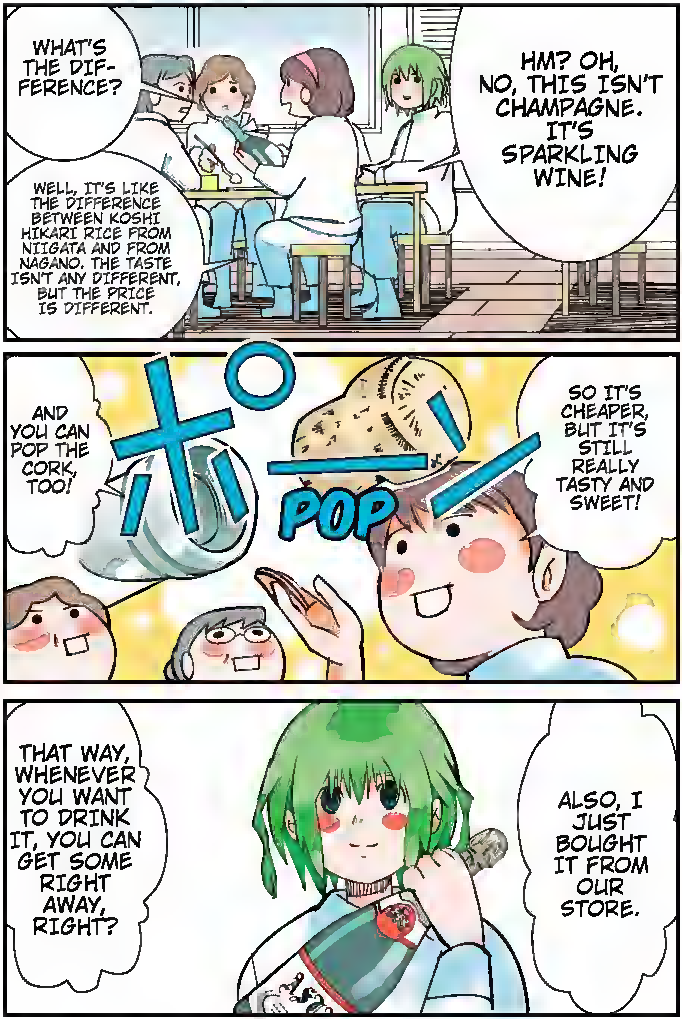

...IF THIS KEEPS UP...
もしゃもしゃ
Chomp chomp
I'M HAPPY, THIS IS SO GOOD, BUT...
MY T*UE S*EEPER! MY FUMOMI! PLEASE BE OKAY!
...THERE'S NO WAY I'LL MAKE IT BACK HOME!
IN THE NEXT TAWARA CAT, YOU TOO WILL KNOW DESPAIR!
KOTORI, TORMENTED BY THE FEAR OF THE TAWARA CAT BARING ITS CLAWS ON HER BELOVED BED...

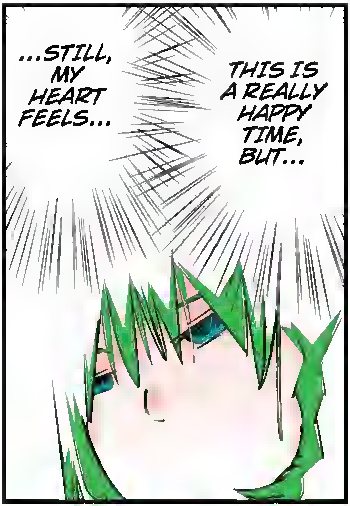
TAWARA
CAT
TAWARA 4: KOTORI AND THE STUFFED ANIMAL (2)
TORAKO HIDAKA
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN Inc

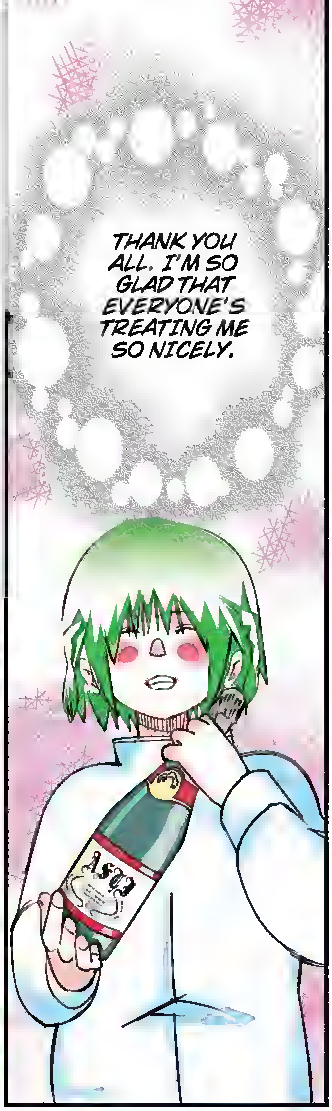

...KOTORI WAS PLEASANTLY EATING CAKE WITH THE LADIES WHO WORK WITH HER AT HER PART-TIME JOB.
om om
もん もん
THOUGH OVER-WHELMED BY THE IDEA THAT HER BEDROOM MIGHT BE BEING CRUELLY CHANGED...
Tee hee hee
A ha ha

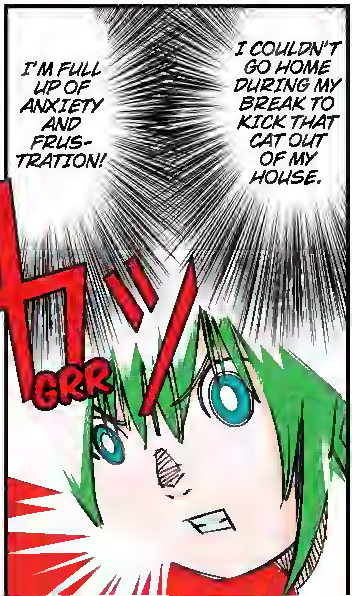
NOW THAT YOU'RE 20, YOU SHOULD DRINK SOME TASTY LIQUOR!
ASTI SPUMANTE!
CHAMPAGNE IS THE BEST FOR WELL-WISHES.

IT'S A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FROM ALL OF US.
AND THIS IS FOR YOU!
ASTI

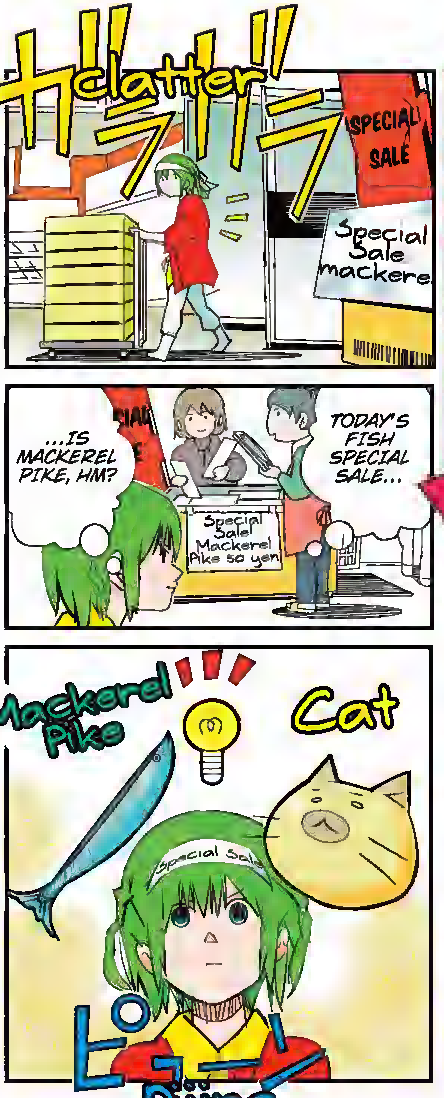

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
WELL, IT'S LIKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KOSHI HIKARI RICE FROM NIIGATA AND FROM NAGANO. THE TASTE ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT, BUT THE PRICE IS DIFFERENT.
HM? OH, NO, THIS ISN'T CHAMPAGNE. IT'S SPARKLING WINE!
AND YOU CAN POP THE CORK, TOO!
ポーン
POP
SO IT'S CHEAPER, BUT IT'S STILL REALLY TASTY AND SWEET!
THAT WAY, WHENEVER YOU WANT TO DRINK IT, YOU CAN GET SOME RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?
ALSO, I JUST BOUGHT IT FROM OUR STORE.

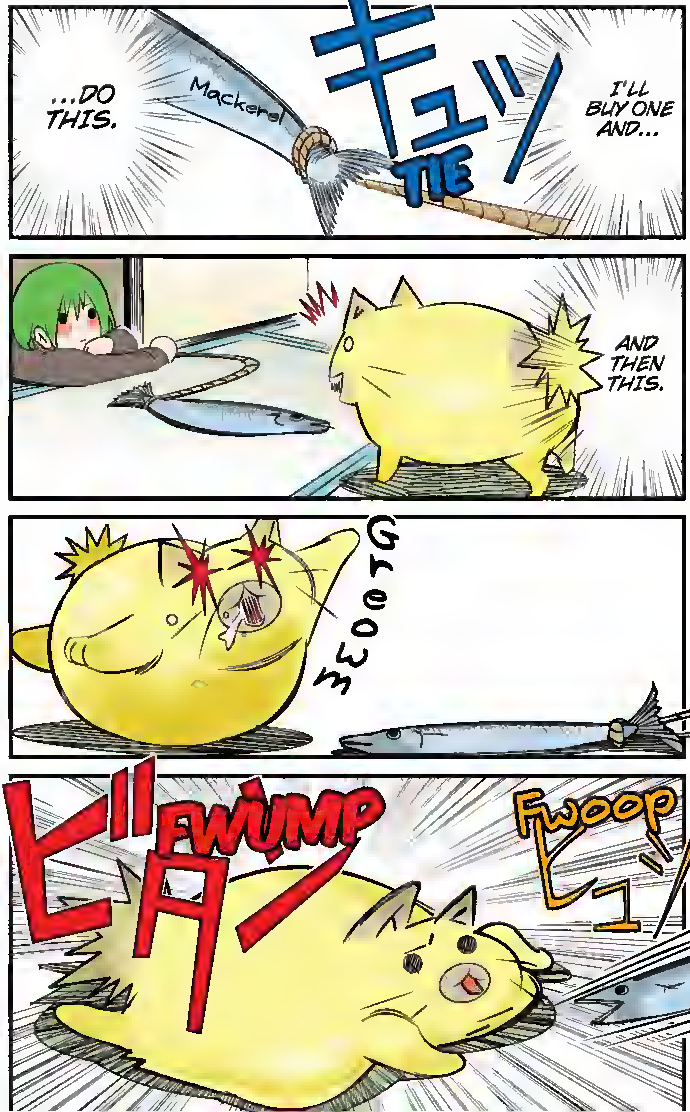

...STILL, MY HEART FEELS...
THIS IS A REALLY HAPPY TIME, BUT...

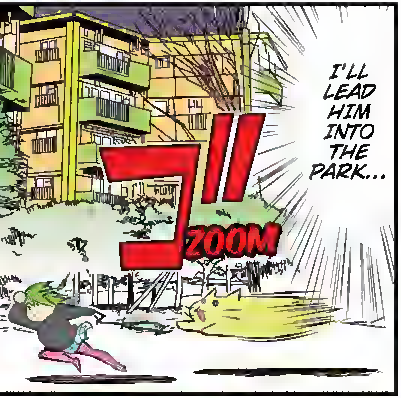

THANK YOU ALL. I'M SO GLAD THAT EVERYONE'S TREATING ME SO NICELY.

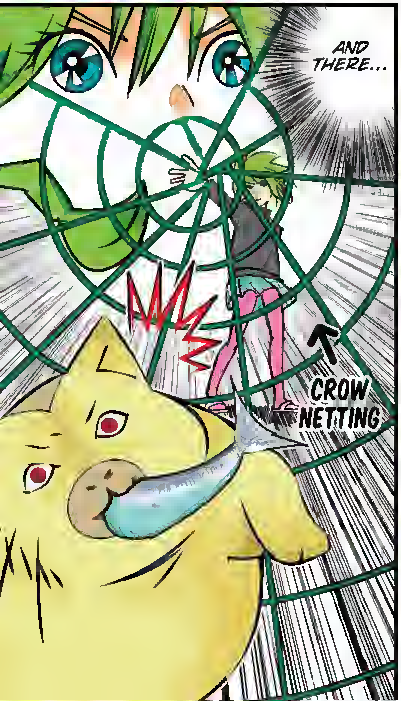

I'M FULL UP OF ANXIETY AND FRUS-TRATION!
I COULDN'T GO HOME DURING MY BREAK TO KICK THAT CAT OUT OF MY HOUSE.
GRR

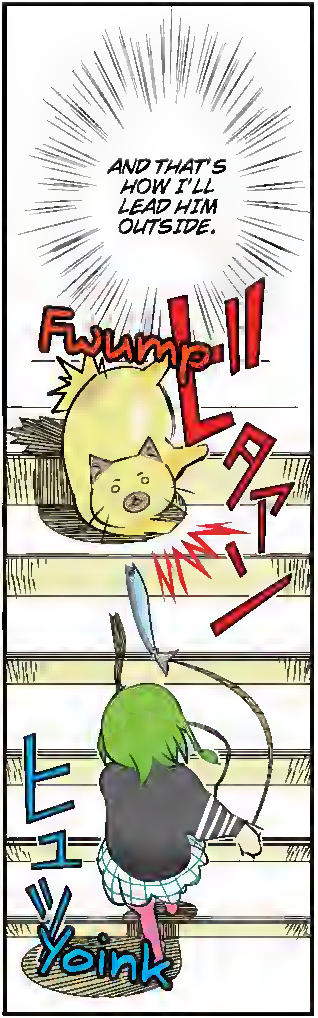
...IS STILL AND QUIET, HAVING BEEN DESTROYED TO THE LIMIT OF THAT CAT'S ABILITY.
snore
I'M SURE BY NOW MY BEDROOM...
...WHO WANTS TO ANSWER THEIR KINDNESS WITH, "WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LET ME GO HOME?"
GRIP
I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF FOR BEING THE KIND OF PERSON...
THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!
NO, THE ONE I CAN'T FORGIVE IS THAT FAT SOW OF A CAT!
FWOOM

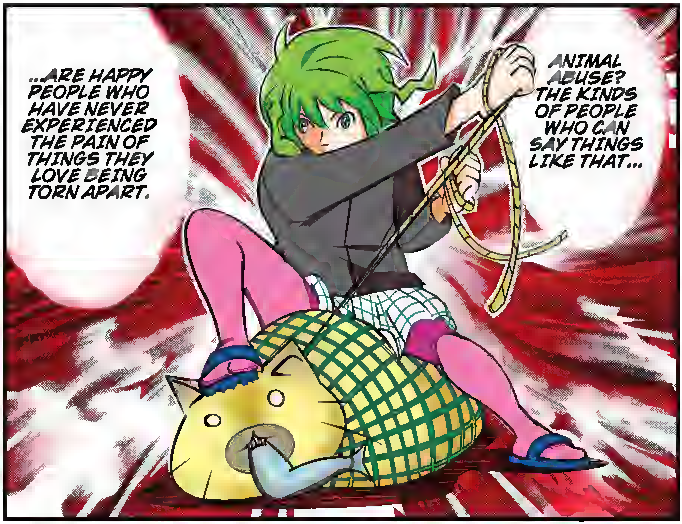

Clatter
SPECIAL SALE
Special Sale mackere
THANKS FOR THE BREAK. I'M GOING TO GO STOCK THE SHELVES NOW!
...IS MACKEREL PIKE, HM?
Special Sale! Mackerel Pike 50 yen
TODAY'S FISH SPECIAL SALE...
SLAP
KOTORI
Mackerel Pike
Cat
Special Sale
Piiing

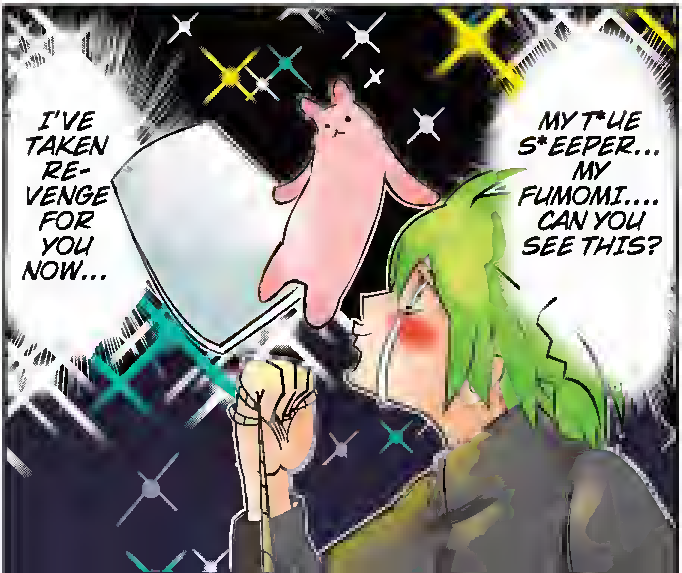

...DO THIS.
Mackerel
キュッ
TIE
I'LL BUY ONE AND...
AND THEN THIS.
Greows
ヒョイ
FWUMP
Fwoop


I'LL LEAD HIM INTO THE PARK...
ZOOM

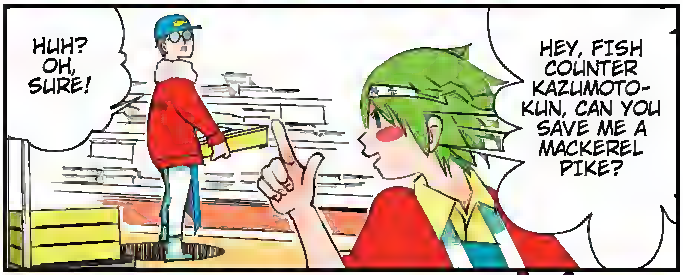

AND THERE...
CROW NETTING


AND THAT'S HOW I'LL LEAD HIM OUTSIDE.
Fwump!!
Yoink

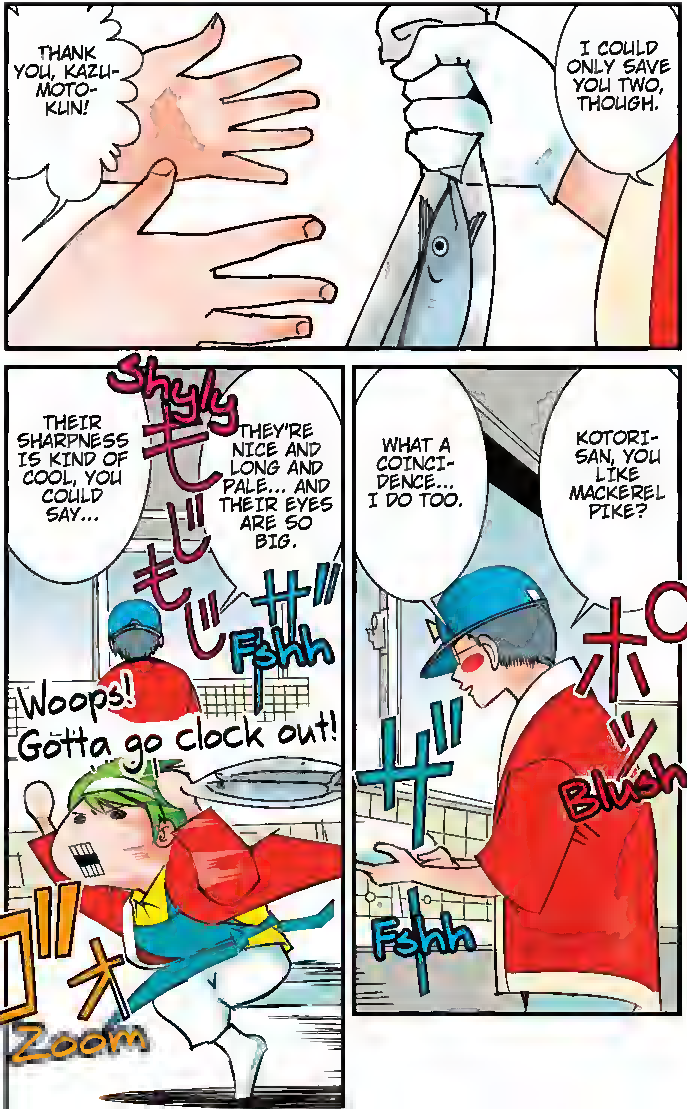

...ARE HAPPY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE PAIN OF THINGS THEY LOVE BEING TORN APART.
ANIMAL ABUSE? THE KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO CAN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT...

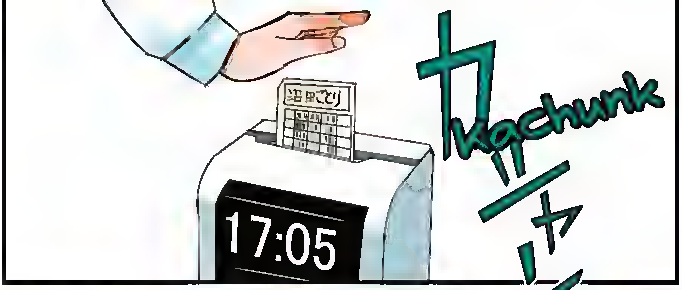

I'VE TAKEN RE-VENGE FOR YOU NOW...
MY T*UE S*EEPER... MY FUMOMI.... CAN YOU SEE THIS?

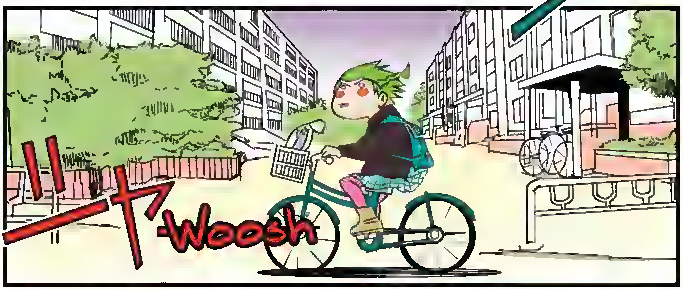
Poik
poik
Special Sale
Thrilled
IT'S SO PERFECT I'VE BROKEN OUT IN GOOSE-BUMPS.


HUH? OH, SURE!
HEY, FISH COUNTER KAZUMOTO-KUN, CAN YOU SAVE ME A MACKEREL PIKE?

KOTORI-SAN IS SO COOL WHEN SHE'S HAVING FUN WITH HER WORK.
BLUSH
Let's do this, let's do this!
Wa ha ha ha
Shoop shoop shoop shoop
SPECIAL SALE

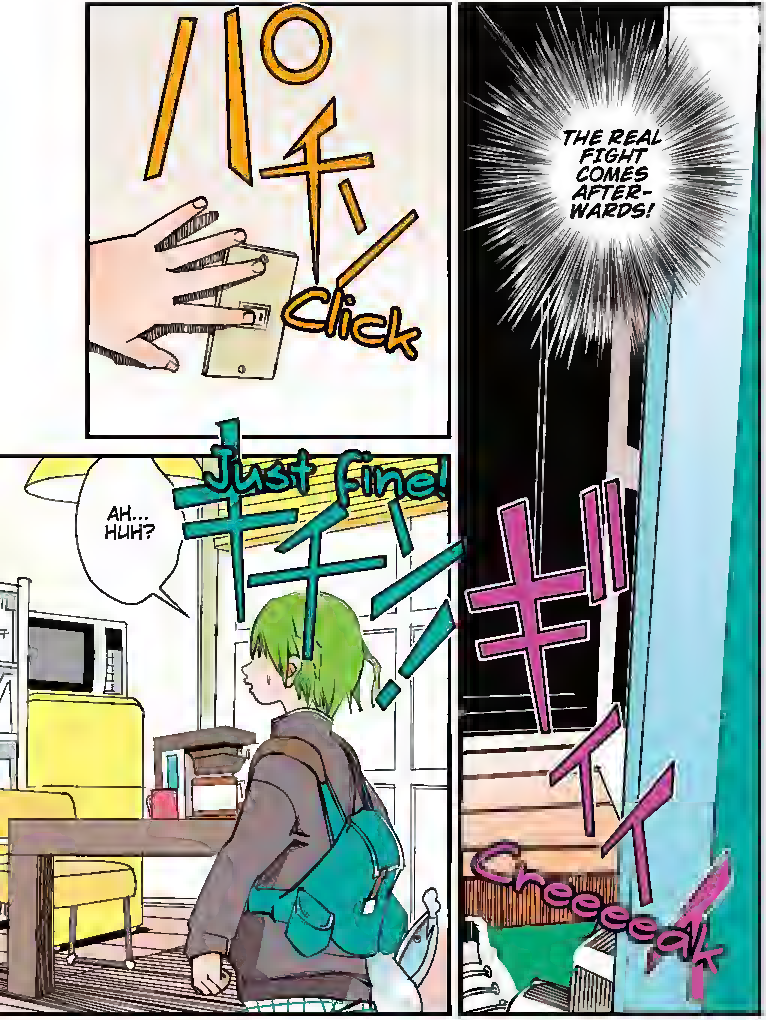

THANK YOU, KAZU-MOTO-KUN!
I COULD ONLY SAVE YOU TWO, THOUGH.
THEIR SHARPNESS IS KIND OF COOL, YOU COULD SAY...
Shyly
もじもじ
THEY'RE NICE AND LONG AND PALE... AND THEIR EYES ARE SO BIG.
Fshh
Woops! Gotta go clock out!
コリャ
Zoom
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE... I DO TOO.
KOTORI-SAN, YOU LIKE MACKEREL PIKE?
ポ
Blush
Fshh

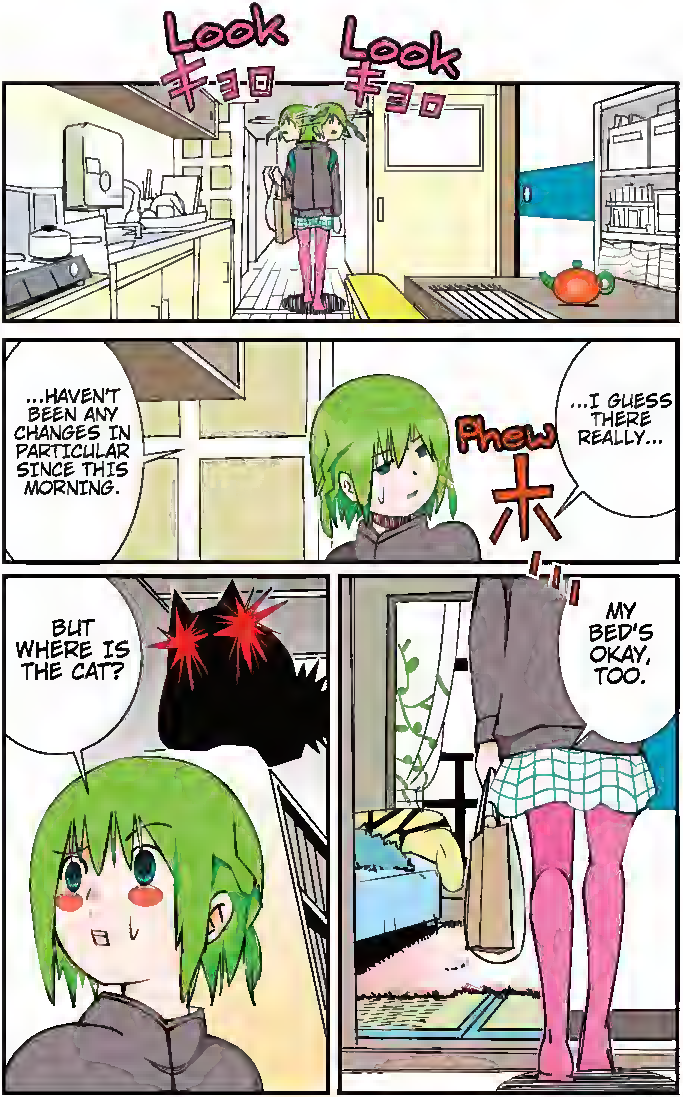

17:05
カチャン
kachunk

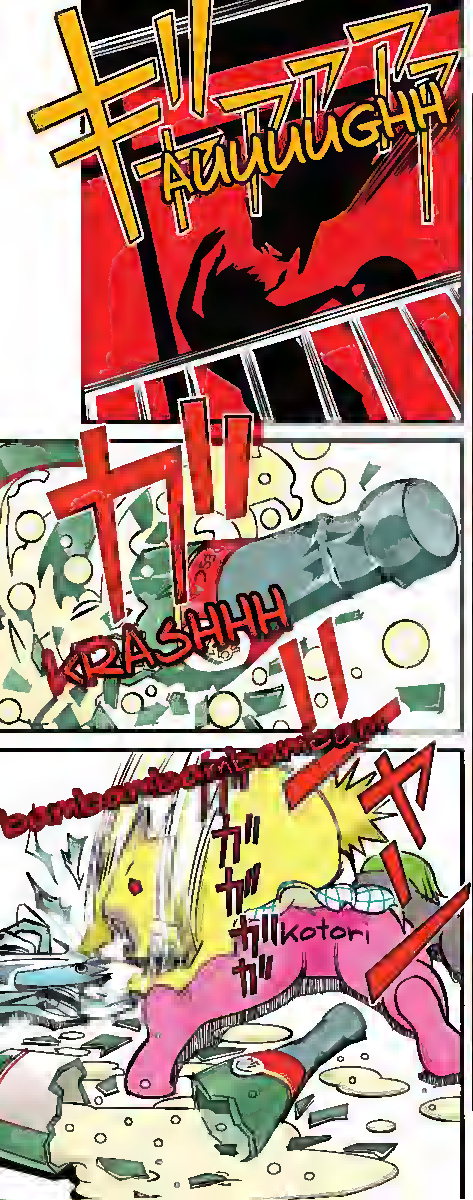

ニヤ
Woosh

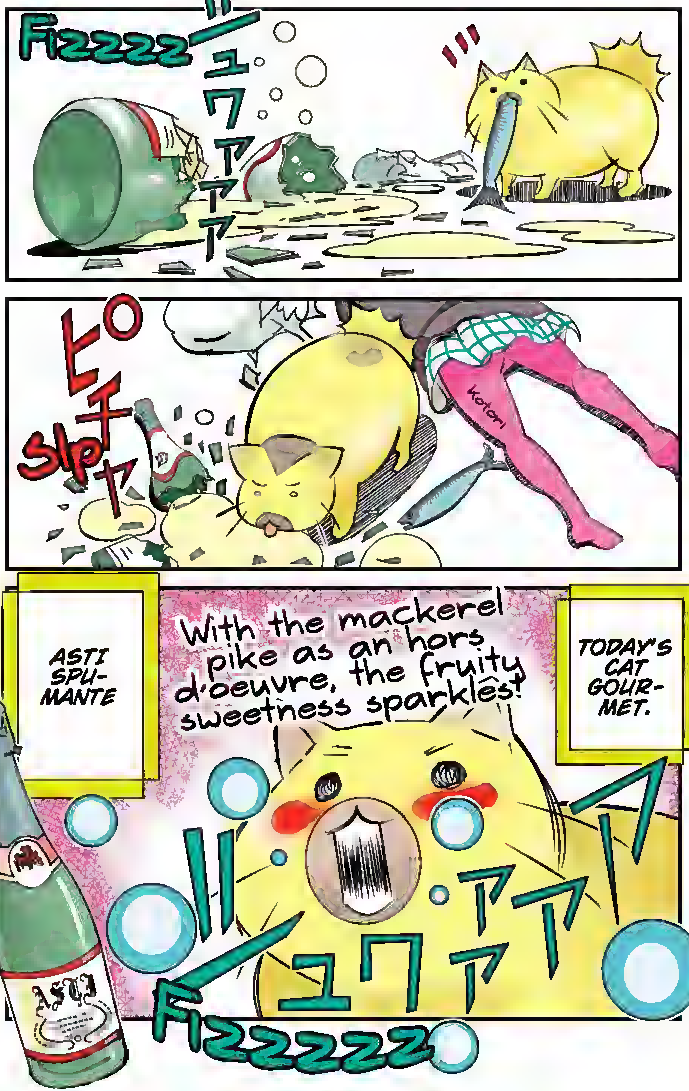
...I'M PREPARED TO TAKE IT ALL IN.
DON'T HESITATE... NO MATTER WHAT THE ROOM IS LIKE...

カチャン
kachk


Click
THE REAL FIGHT COMES AFTER-WARDS!
Creeeeak
Just fine!
AH... HUH?


Look
キョロ
Look
キョロ
...I GUESS THERE REALLY...
Phew
ホ
...HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CHANGES IN PARTICULAR SINCE THIS MORNING.
MY BED'S OKAY, TOO.
BUT WHERE IS THE CAT?


AUUUUGHH
KRASHHH
bamkamkakamkamkam
kotori
THIS PLACE HAS BEEN LOCKED, SO THERE'S NO WAY HE GOT OUT...
Smack


Fizzzz
ユワアアア
ヒロ
sipチャ
Kotori
ASTI SPU-MANTE
With the mackerel pike as an hors d'oeuvre, the fruity sweetness sparkles!
TODAY'S CAT GOUR-MET.
ユワアアア
Fizzzzz

TODAY, I GOT SCREWED OVER BY THIS CAT YET AGAIN.

TAWARA 5: KOTORI'S GAMBLE

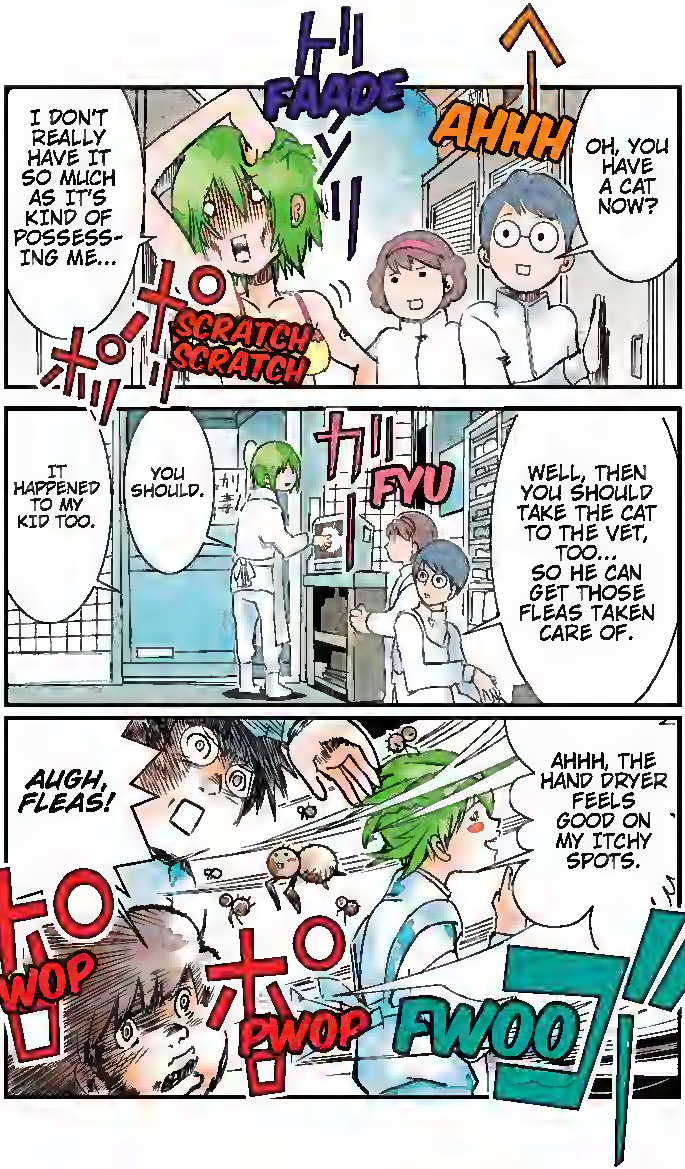
TORAKO HIDAKA

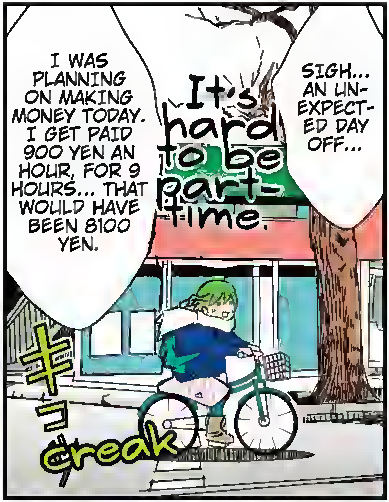
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN Inc.

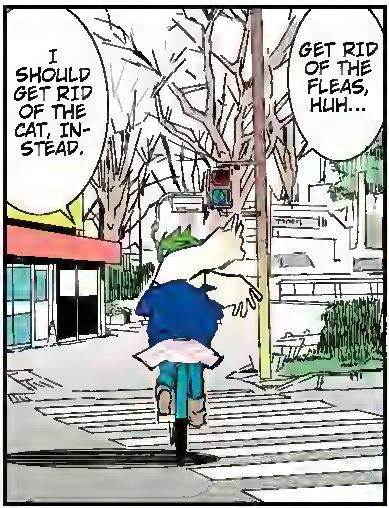
ポリ
SCRATCH

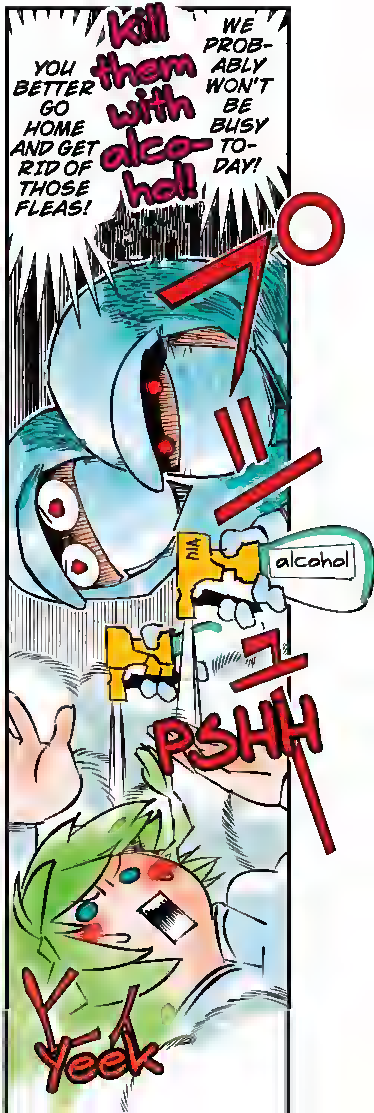
かゆい
I THINK THE CAT THAT FOLLOWED ME HOME HAS FLEAS OR TICKS.
ポリポリ
SCRATCH SCRATCH
I GUESS I REALLY SHOULD GO TO THE CLINIC, THOUGH.

OH NO, KOTORI-CHAN. THAT LOOKS AWFUL. HAVE YOU GONE TO A CLINIC?
EH...

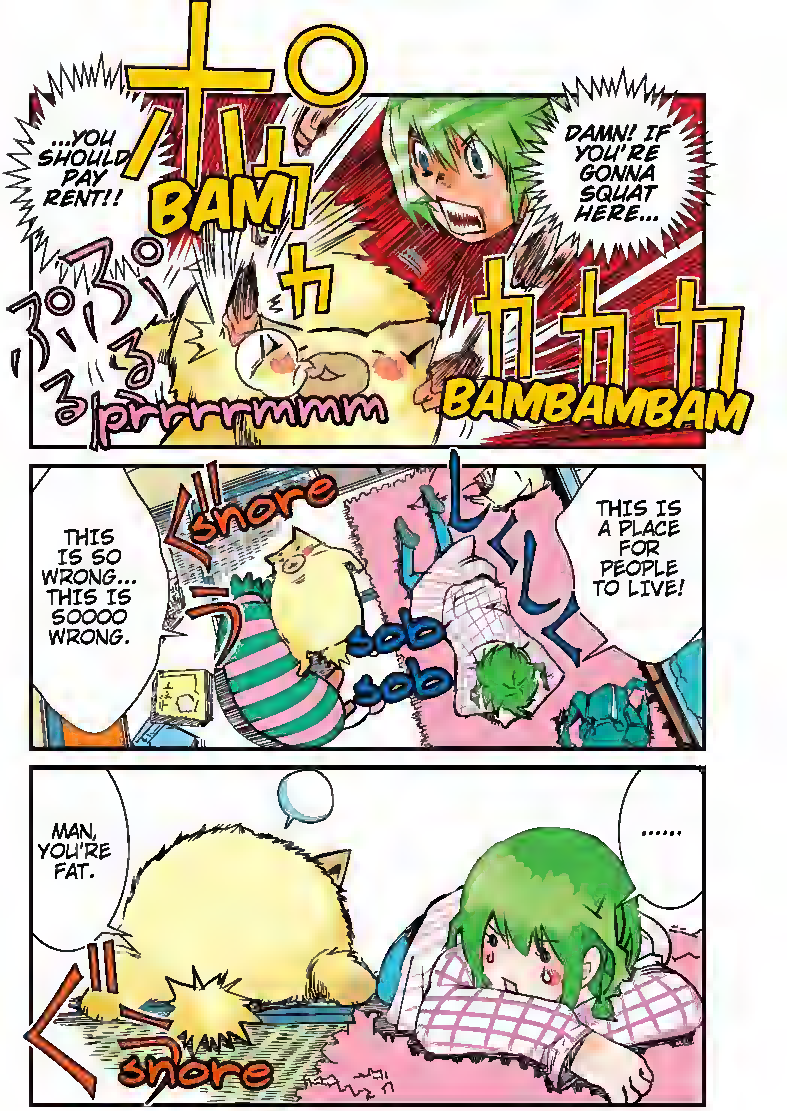

FAADE
AHHH
OH, YOU HAVE A CAT NOW?
I DON'T REALLY HAVE IT SO MUCH AS IT'S KIND OF POSSESS-ING ME...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
FYU
WELL, THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE THE CAT TO THE VET, TOO... SO HE CAN GET THOSE FLEAS TAKEN CARE OF.
YOU SHOULD.
IT HAPPENED TO MY KID TOO.
AUGH, FLEAS!
AHHH, THE HAND DRYER FEELS GOOD ON MY ITCHY SPOTS.
PWOP
PWOP
FWOO

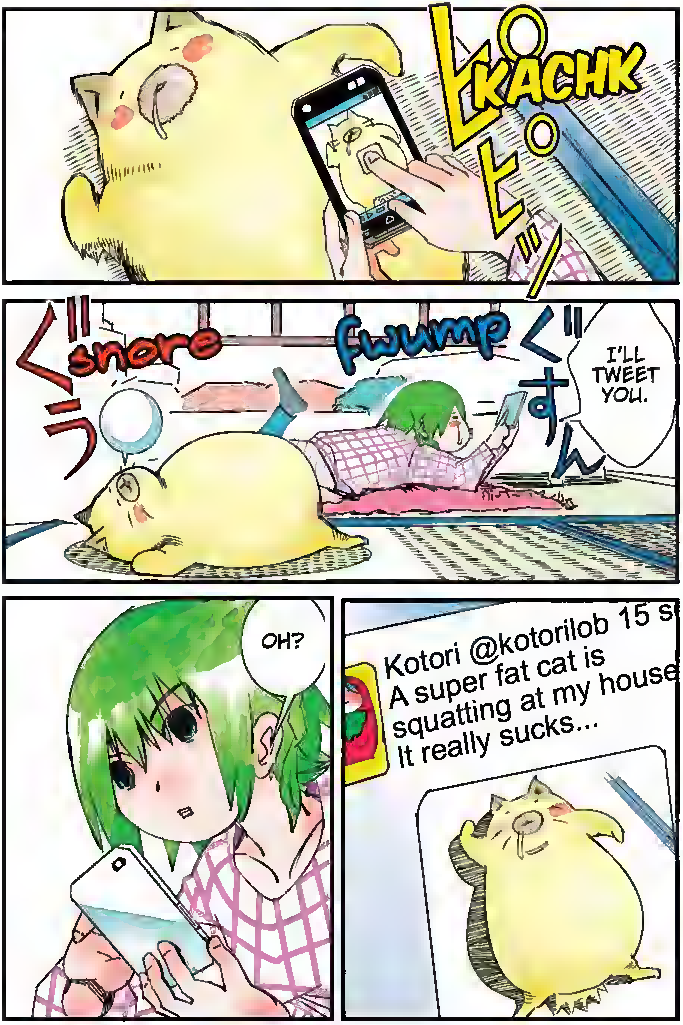

I WAS PLANNING ON MAKING MONEY TODAY. I GET PAID 900 YEN AN HOUR, FOR 9 HOURS... THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN 8100 YEN.
It's hard to be part-time.
SIGH... AN UNEXPECTED DAY OFF...
kiko
creak

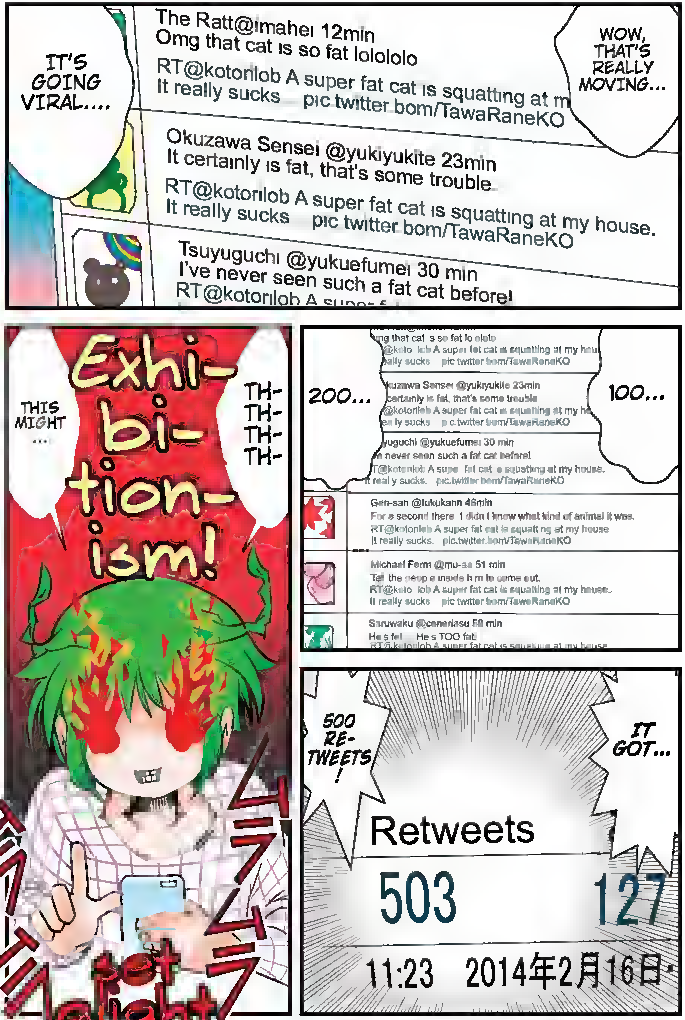

I SHOULD GET RID OF THE CAT, INSTEAD.
GET RID OF THE FLEAS, HUH...


YOU BETTER GO HOME AND GET RID OF THOSE FLEAS!
kill them with alcohol
WE PROBABLY WON'T BE BUSY TODAY!
alcohol
PSHH
Yeek

Grrrrm
DAMN... DAMN, SO HEAVY!
ALL RIGHT!
BAM!
Stiffink
AAAUGH, CAT POOP!


...YOU SHOULD PAY RENT!!
BAM!
DAMN! IF YOU'RE GONNA SQUAT HERE...
BAMBAMBAM
prrrrmmm
THIS IS SO WRONG... THIS IS SOOOO WRONG.
snore
sob
sob
THIS IS A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE!
MAN, YOU'RE FAT.
.....
snore


KACHIK
snore
fwump
I'LL TWEET YOU.
OH?
Kotori @kotorilob 15 s
A super fat cat is squatting at my house
It really sucks...


IT'S GOING VIRAL....
The Ratt@imahei 12min
Omg that cat is so fat lolololo
RT@kotorilob A super fat cat is squatting at m
It really sucks pic twitter bom/TawaRaneKO
WOW, THAT'S REALLY MOVING...
Okuzawa Sensei @yukiyukite 23min
It certainly is fat, that's some trouble.
RT@kotorilob A super fat cat is squatting at my house.
It really sucks pic twitter bom/TawaRaneKO
Tsuyuguchi @yukuefumei 30 min
I've never seen such a fat cat before!
RT@kotorilob A super fat
THIS MIGHT ...
Exhi-bi-tion-ism!
TH-TH-TH-TH-
レミリア
レミリア
get alight
200...
100...
Gen-san @lukukann 48min
For a second there I didn t know what kind of animal it was.
RT@kotorilob A super fat cat is squatting at my house
It really sucks. pic.twitter.bom/TawaRaneKO
Michael Ferm @mu-sa 51 min
Tell the people inside him to come out.
RT@kuto lob A super fat cat is squatting at my house.
It really sucks pic twitter bom/TawaRaneKO
Saruwaku @cameriasu 58 min
He s fat He s TOO fat
RT@kotorilob A super fat cat is saruwaku at my house
500 RE-TWEETS!
IT GOT...
Retweets
503
127
11:23 2014年2月16日·

You can call it dreamy electronica, I suppose.

Her roots are in indie music like the first album by Owl City...

...CAME TO TOKYO, WORKS PART-TIME, AND ALSO IS AN INDIE MUSICIAN WHO...

NOW, THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS STORY, MISS KOTORI NUMATA...

But she is definitely very inspired by the Postal Service's "Give Up."

...NO ONE LISTENED TO IT, SO SHE KEEPS REFRESHING THE SONG OVER AND OVER TO GIVE IT PLAYS. SHE LIVES A SAD LIFE.

Bam Bam Bam Bam

YEARNING

ZERO PLAYS!

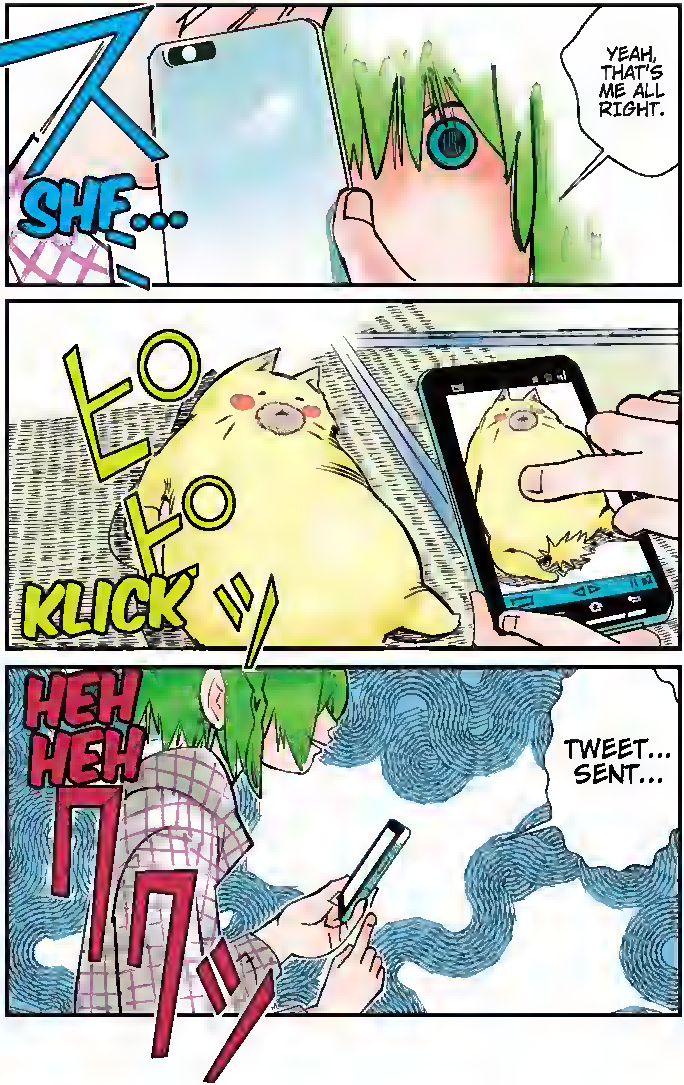
...RECENTLY RELEASED A NEW SONG ON THE NET, BUT...

If you hit F5 enough

F5

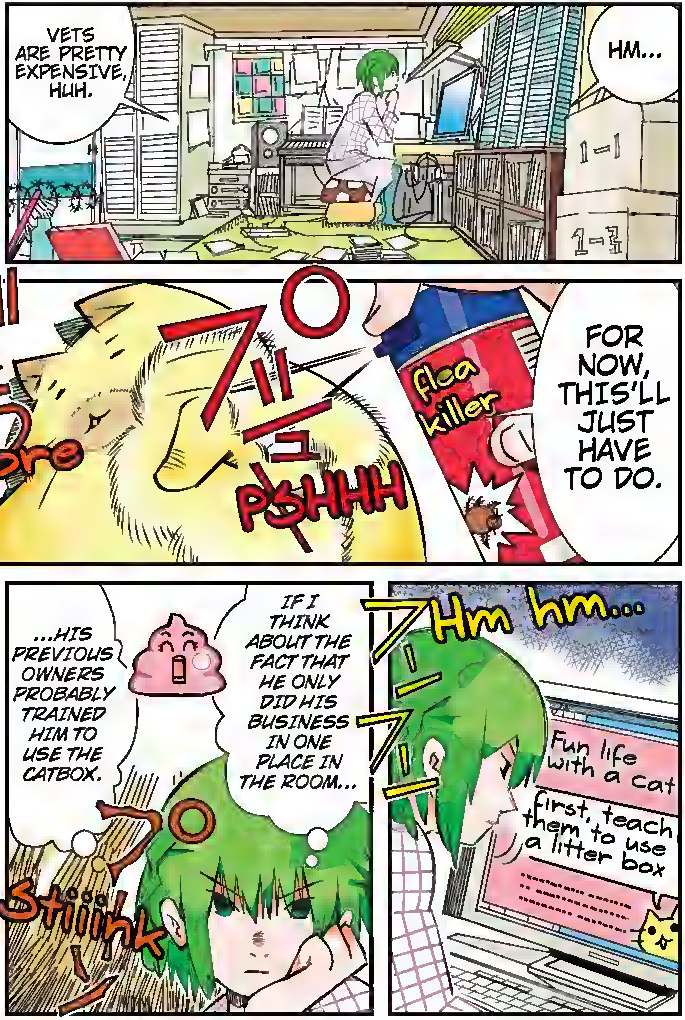
the plays will go up.

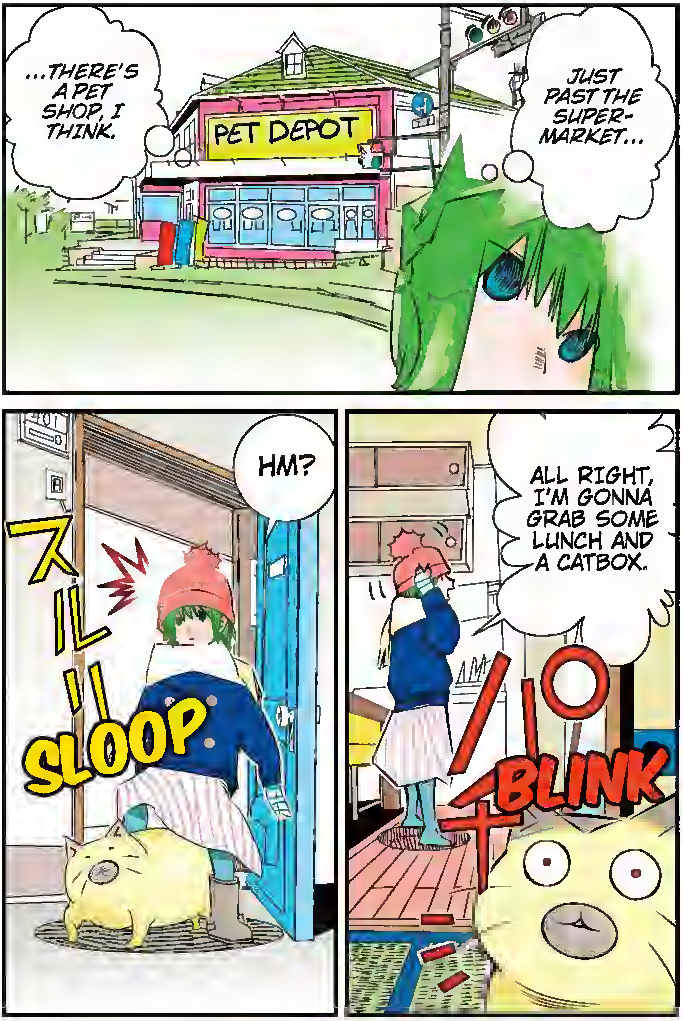
Bam


スー
SHE...
YEAH, THAT'S ME ALL RIGHT.
トロトロ
KLICK
HEH HEH
TWEET... SENT...

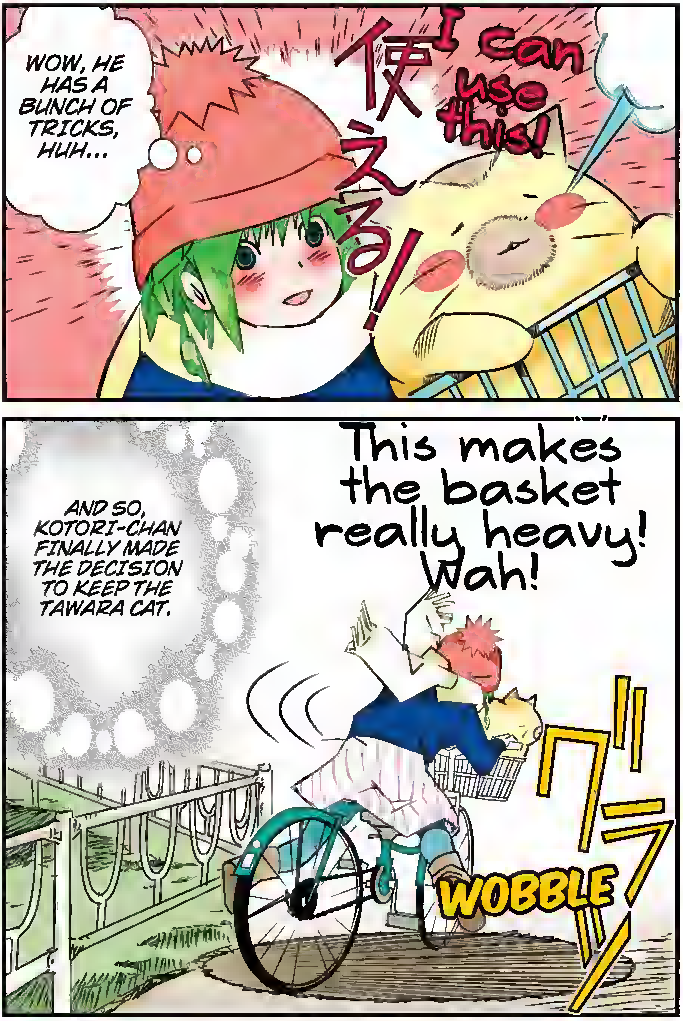
1000 RE-TWEETS ALREADY !!
Retweets
1005
200... 500....
12:37 2014年
SO MANY PEOPLE ARE LOOK-ING AT MY TWEETS...
PANT
-PANT
THEY'RE LOOKING... AT MY TWEETS...
HAPPY ...!
SO...

... USE THIS CAT!
I CAN...
....
Geeglo
taking care of a cat
CLICKY
カチッ
snore


VETS ARE PRETTY EXPENSIVE, HUH.
HM...
1-1
1-2
snore
PSHHH
flea killer
FOR NOW, THIS'LL JUST HAVE TO DO.
...HIS PREVIOUS OWNERS PROBABLY TRAINED HIM TO USE THE CATBOX.
IF I THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE ONLY DID HIS BUSINESS IN ONE PLACE IN THE ROOM...
Stiiink
Hm hm...
Fun life with a cat
first, teach them to use a litter box


...THERE'S A PET SHOP, I THINK.
PET DEPOT
JUST PAST THE SUPER-MARKET...
HM?
スル
SLOOP
ALL RIGHT, I'M GONNA GRAB SOME LUNCH AND A CATBOX.
BLINK

Tomp tomp
ヒタヒタ
HM?
YEEK
WOOM
53
Stare
おわわ
WOAH
スポッ
SPOF
DOMF


WOW, HE HAS A BUNCH OF TRICKS, HUH...
使える!
I can use this!
AND SO, KOTORI-CHAN FINALLY MADE THE DECISION TO KEEP THE TAWARA CAT.
This makes the basket really heavy! Wah!
WOBBLE

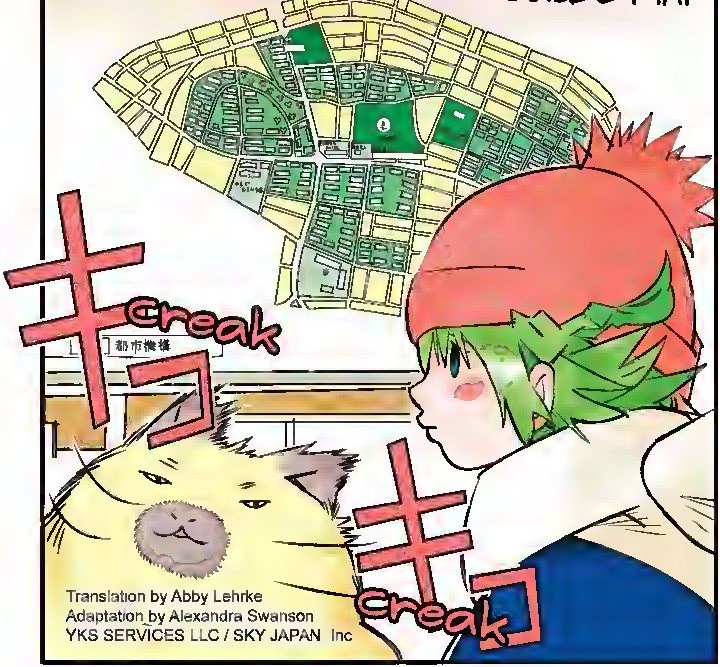
TAWARA CAT

TAWARA 6: KOTORI'S SHOPPING TRIP

TORAKO HIDAKA

木曽崎団地案内図

KISOZAKI APARTMENTS GUIDE MAP



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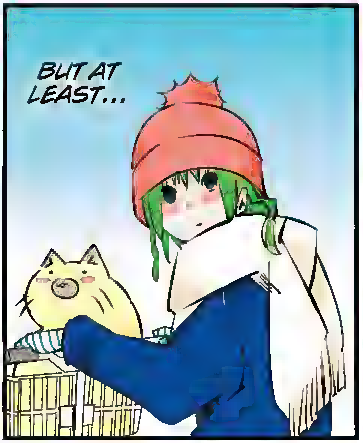
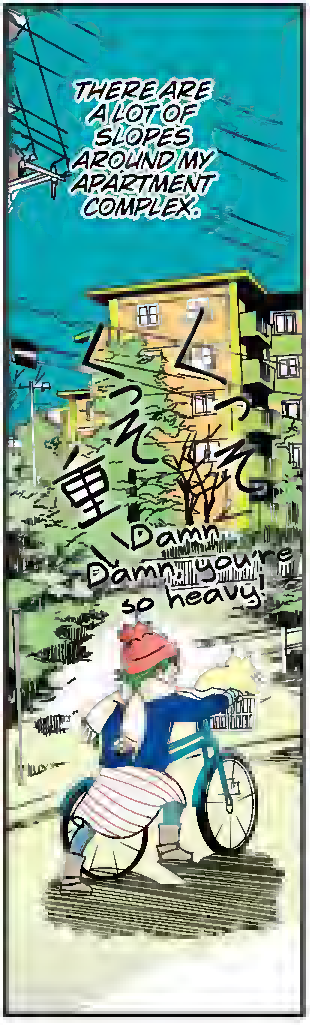
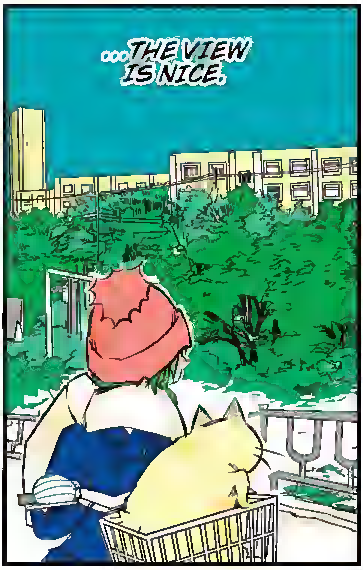
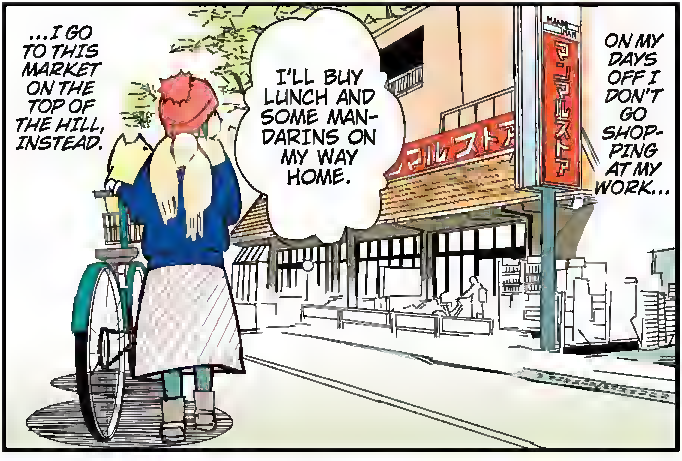
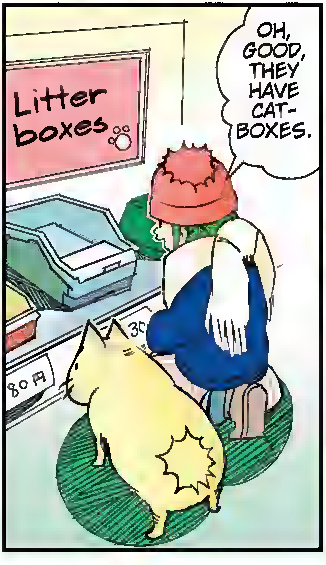
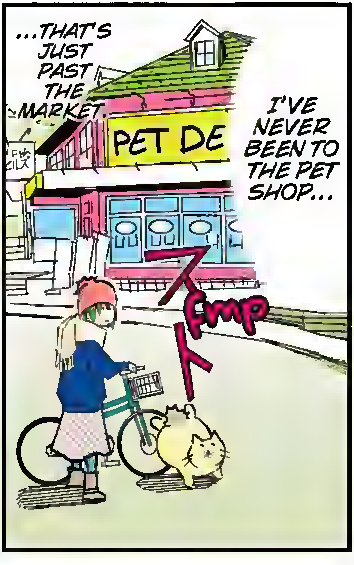

BUT AT LEAST...

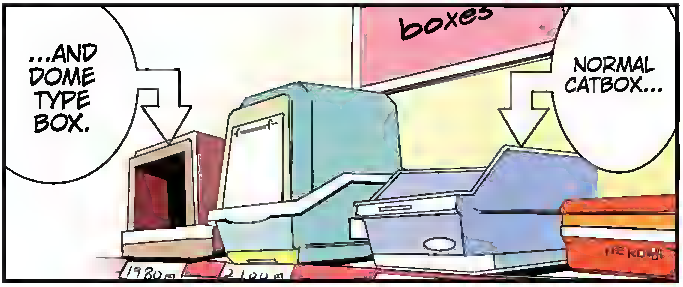

THERE ARE A LOT OF SLOPES AROUND MY APARTMENT COMPLEX.
しんど重
Damn
Damn you're so heavy!

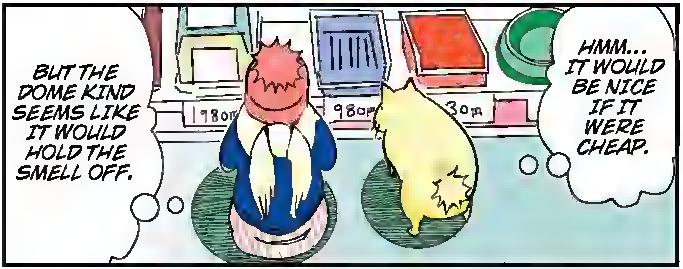

...THE VIEW IS NICE.


...I GO TO THIS MARKET ON THE TOP OF THE HILL, INSTEAD.
I'LL BUY LUNCH AND SOME MAN-DARINS ON MY WAY HOME.
ON MY DAYS OFF I DON'T GO SHOP-PING AT MY WORK...

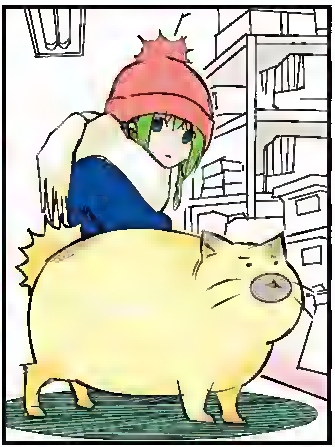

Litter boxes
OH, GOOD, THEY HAVE CAT-BOXES.

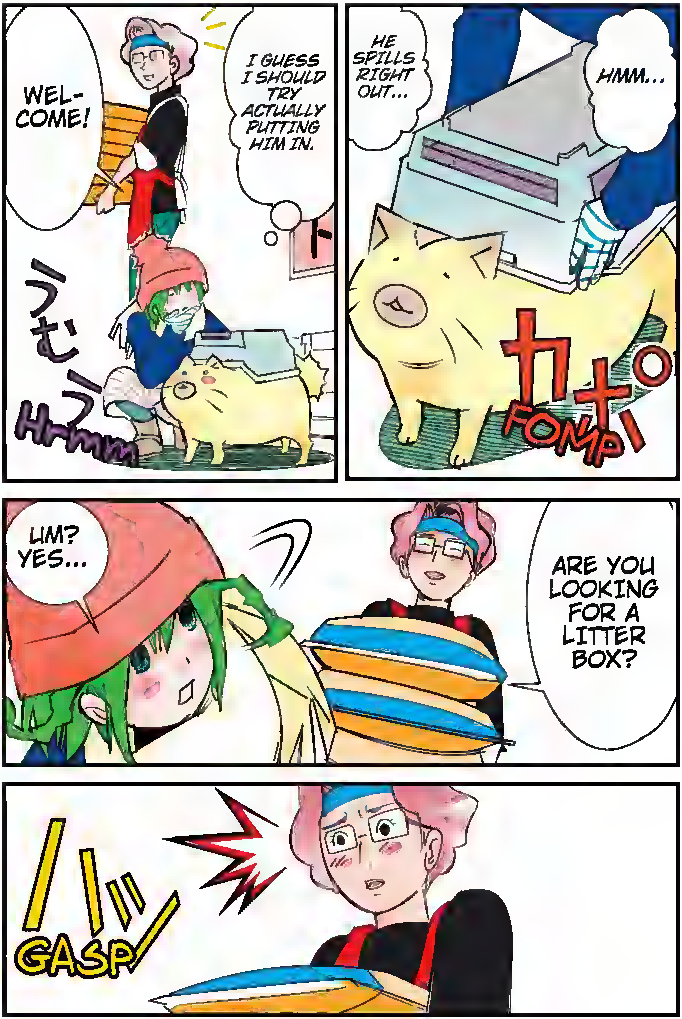

...THAT'S JUST PAST THE MARKET.
PET DE
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE PET SHOP...
スタスタ


boxes
...AND DOME TYPE BOX.
NORMAL CATBOX...

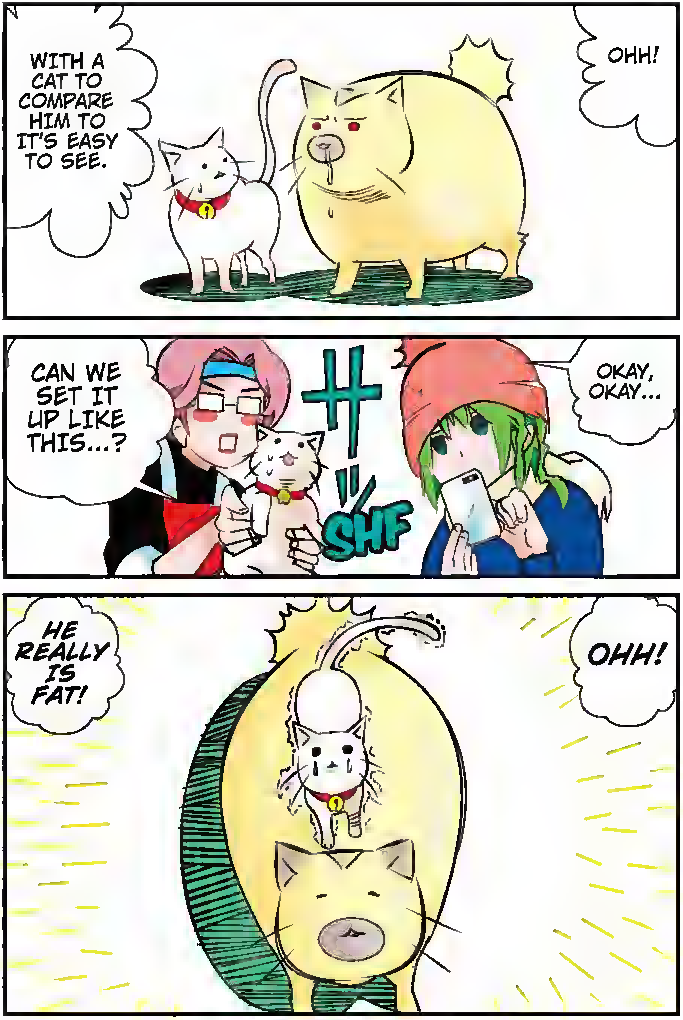

BUT THE DOME KIND SEEMS LIKE IT WOULD HOLD THE SMELL OFF.
HMM... IT WOULD BE NICE IF IT WERE CHEAP.

...CAN A CAT THIS FAT EVEN FIT IN ONE OF THESE?
ACTU-ALLY...

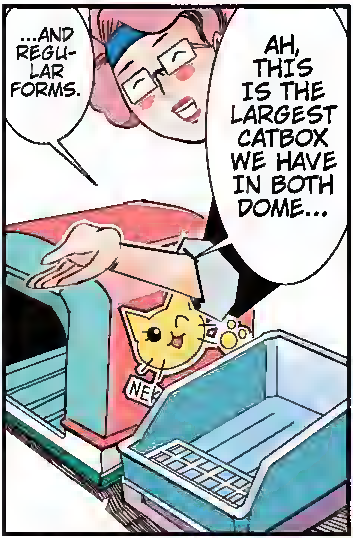


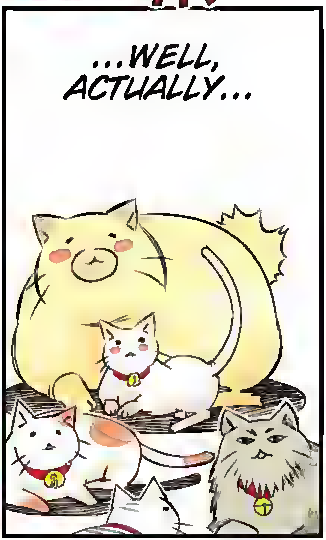

WEL-COME!
I GUESS I SHOULD TRY ACTUALLY PUTTING HIM IN.
うむ
Hmm
HE SPILLS RIGHT OUT...
HMM...
FOMP
LM? YES...
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A LITTER BOX?
GASP

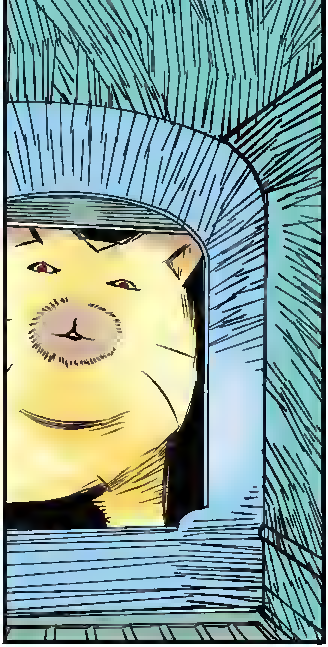
OH MY GOSH... HE'S SO FAT!
FWUMP
C-CAN I TAKE A PICTURE, PLEASE?
UM... SURE.
FWIP
CAN I TAKE ONE...
...COMPARING HIM TO THIS LITTLE GUY?
mew
ACTUALLY, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
WHAT?
DASH

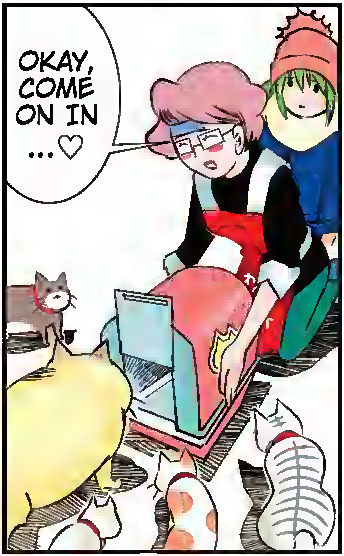

WITH A CAT TO COMPARE HIM TO IT'S EASY TO SEE.
OHH!
CAN WE SET IT UP LIKE THIS...?
SHF
OKAY, OKAY...
HE REALLY IS FAT!
OHH!

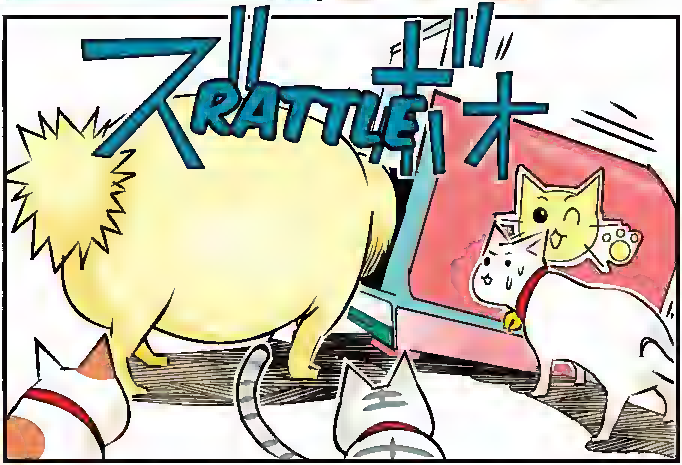
UM, ABOUT THAT CATBOX...
Big ⟷ small
OKAY, OKAY, SO MAYBE WE CAN HAVE MORE OF A STEP-BY-STEP COMPARI-SON...
HO HO HO
ホ ホ ホ


...AND REGU-LAR FORMS.
AH, THIS IS THE LARGEST CATBOX WE HAVE IN BOTH DOME...
NEO

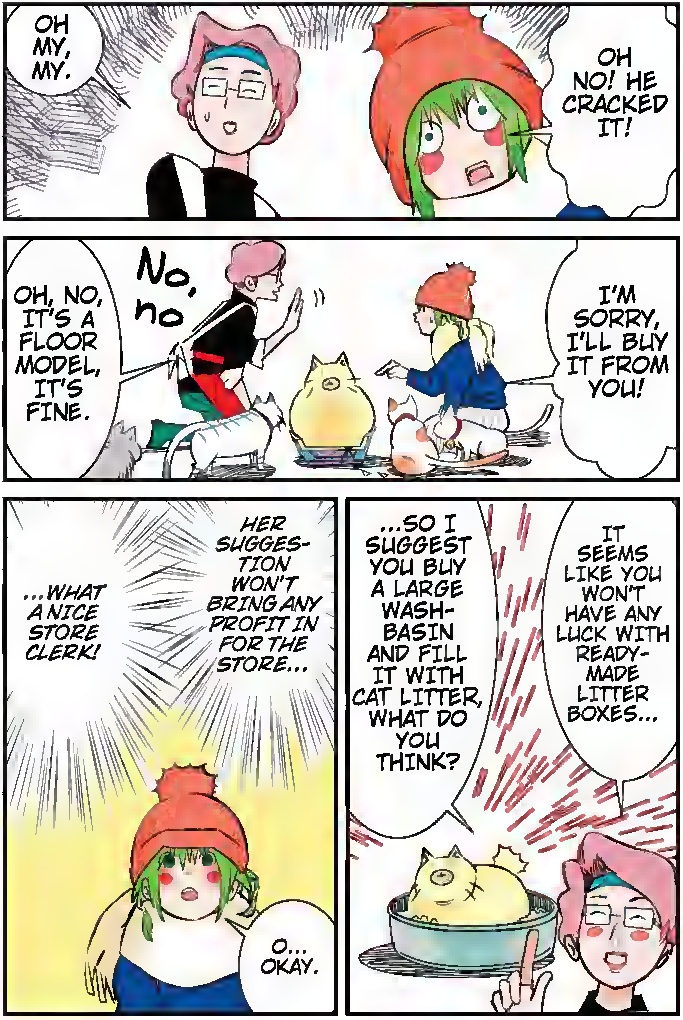

...WELL, ACTUALLY...

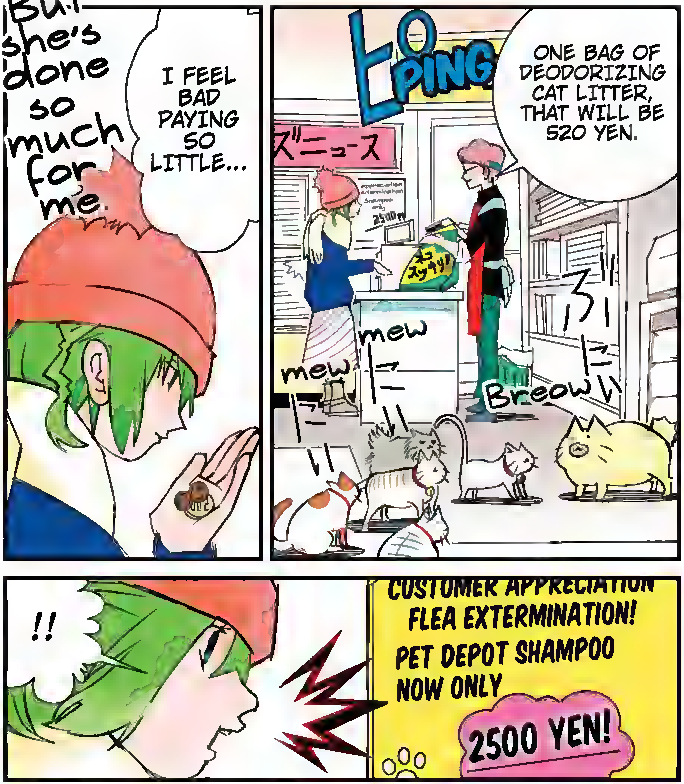



OKAY, COME ON IN ...♡

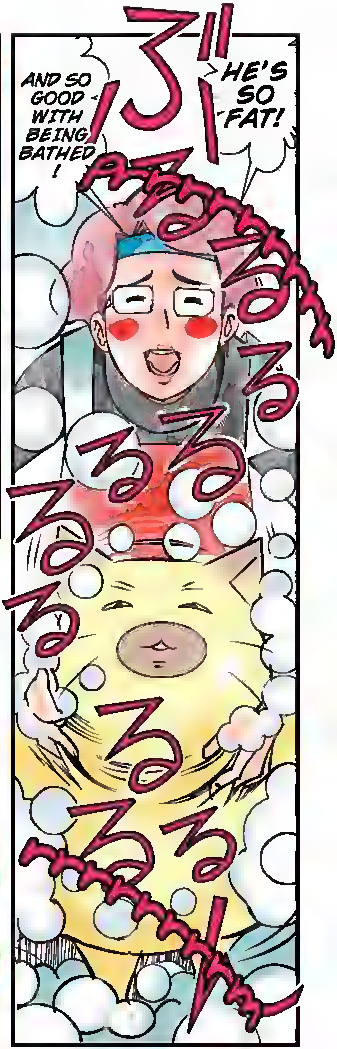

ラトル
RATTLE

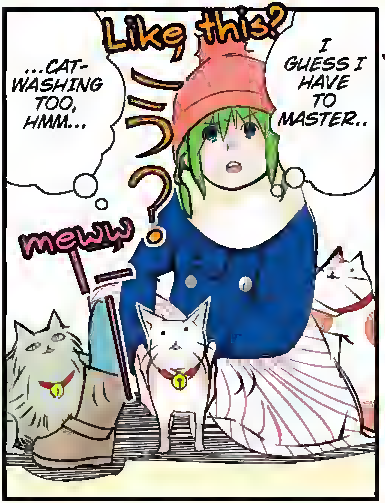
hmmm
ふうむ
scrape
scrape
スリ
スリ
スリ
scrape
JUST MY LUCK...
OH MY, MY...
NEKO
Twirl
クルリ
NEKO
THEN LET'S TRY THE NORMAL ONE.
ALL RIGHT, TRY THAT OUT.
Squeeze
ヒキッ
KRICK

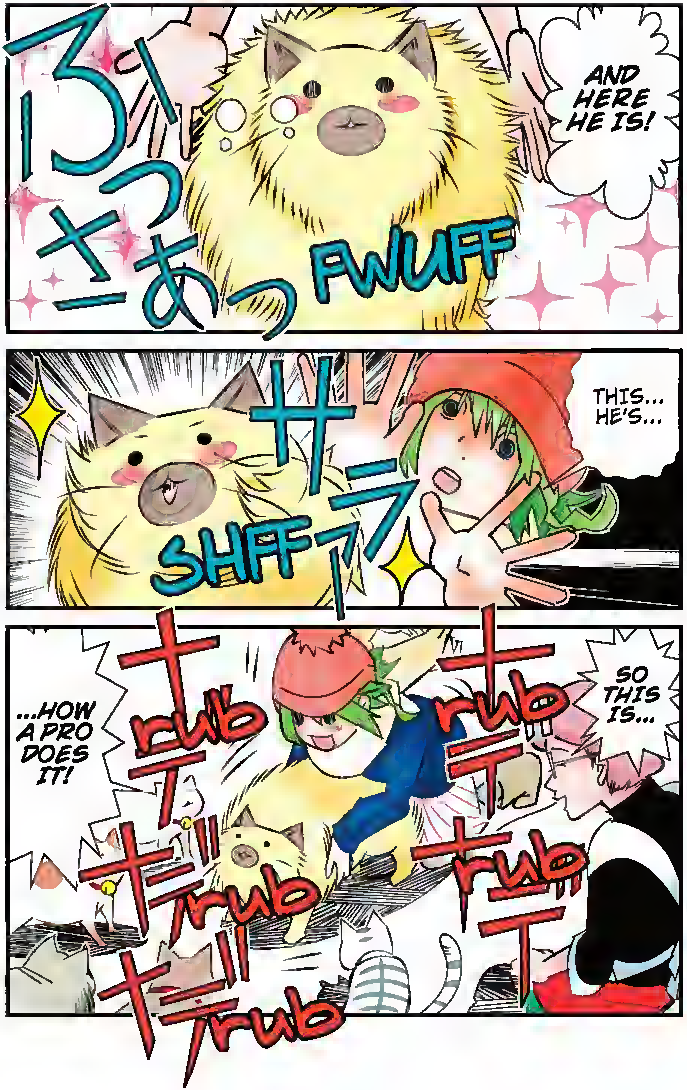

OH MY, MY.
OH NO! HE CRACKED IT!
OH, NO, IT'S A FLOOR MODEL, IT'S FINE.
No, no
I'M SORRY, I'LL BUY IT FROM YOU!
...WHAT A NICE STORE CLERK!
HER SUGGES-TION WON'T BRING ANY PROFIT IN FOR THE STORE...
O... OKAY.
...SO I SUGGEST YOU BUY A LARGE WASH-BASIN AND FILL IT WITH CAT LITTER, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WON'T HAVE ANY LUCK WITH READY-MADE LITTER BOXES...

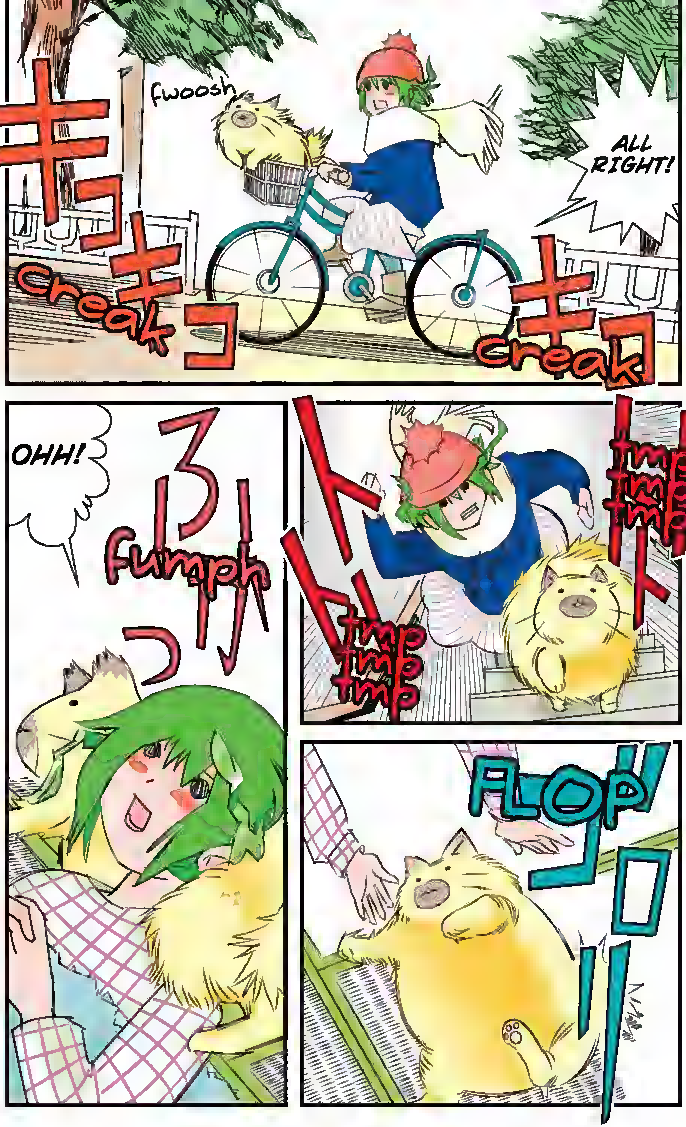

But she's done so much for me.
I FEEL BAD PAYING SO LITTLE...
ONE BAG OF DEODORIZING CAT LITTER, THAT WILL BE 520 YEN.
mew
mew
Breow
!!
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION
FLEA EXTERMINATION!
PET DEPOT SHAMPOO
NOW ONLY
2500 YEN!
CAN I ALSO BUY A SHAMPOO FOR MY CAT?

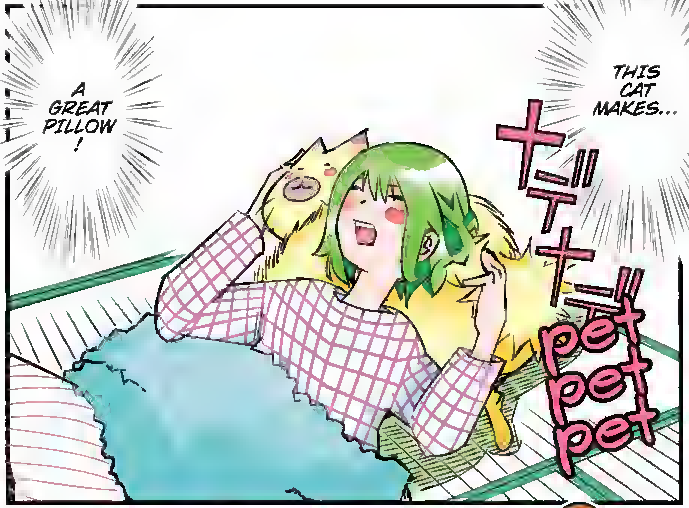
PET SALON
HMM...

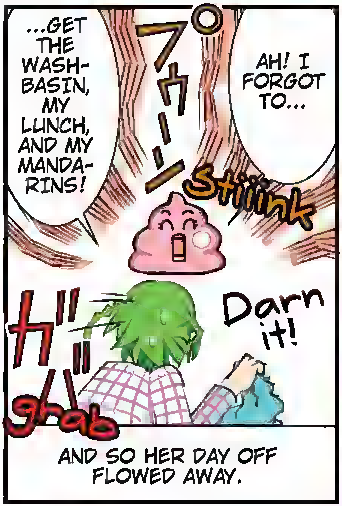

AND SO GOOD WITH BEING BATHED!
HE'S SO FAT!


...CAT-WASHING TOO, HMM...
Like this?
I GUESS I HAVE TO MASTER..
mewly?

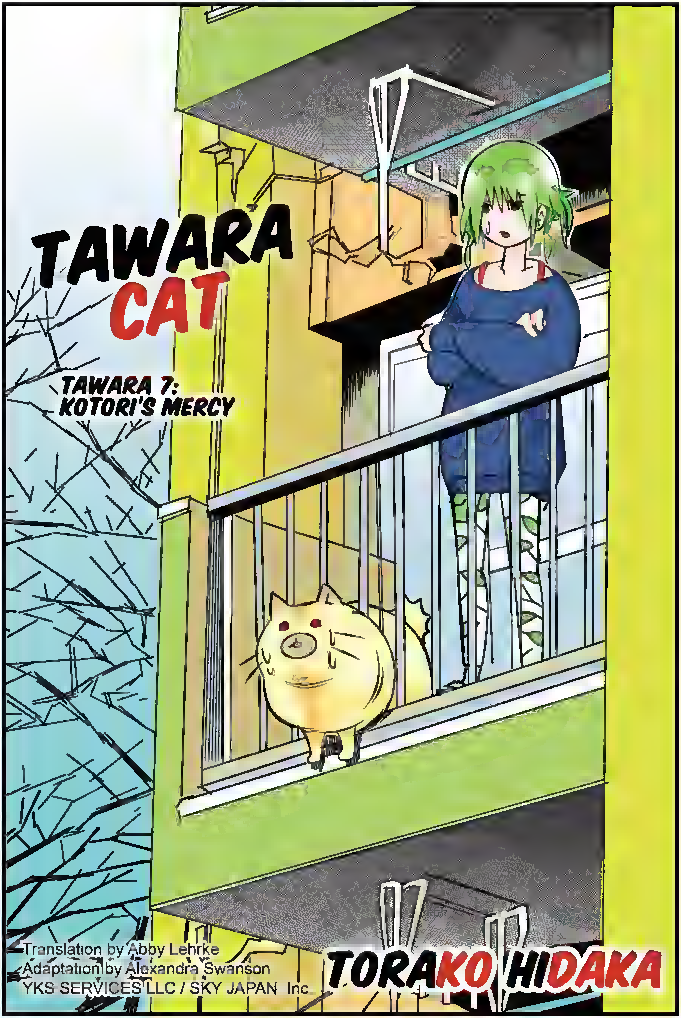

AND HERE HE IS!
FWUFF
THIS... HE'S...
SHFF
...HOW A PRO DOES IT!
rub
rub
rub
rub
rub
SO THIS IS...


fwoosh
ALL RIGHT!
キコキコ
creak
キコ
creak
OHH!
fumph
トトトト
tmp tmp tmp
tmp tmp tmp
FLOP!


A GREAT PILLOW!
THIS CAT MAKES...
ナデナデ
pet pet pet

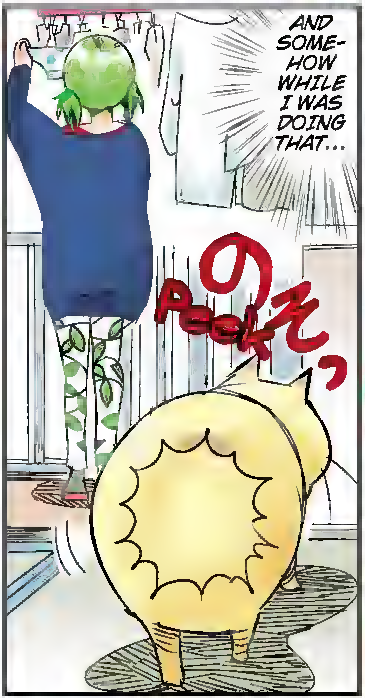

...GET THE WASH-BASIN, MY LUNCH, AND MY MANDA-RINS!
AH! I FORGOT TO...
プゥーン
Stiiink
ガバッ
grab
Darn it!
AND SO HER DAY OFF FLOWED AWAY.

プゥーン
Stiiink
ヒクッ
Ugh

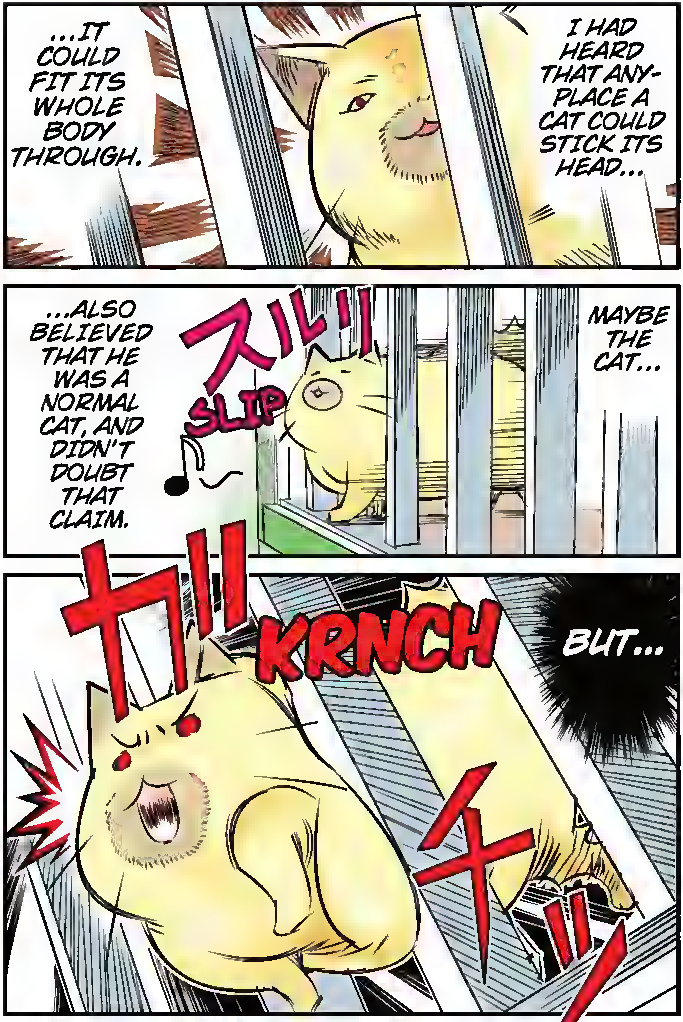


THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

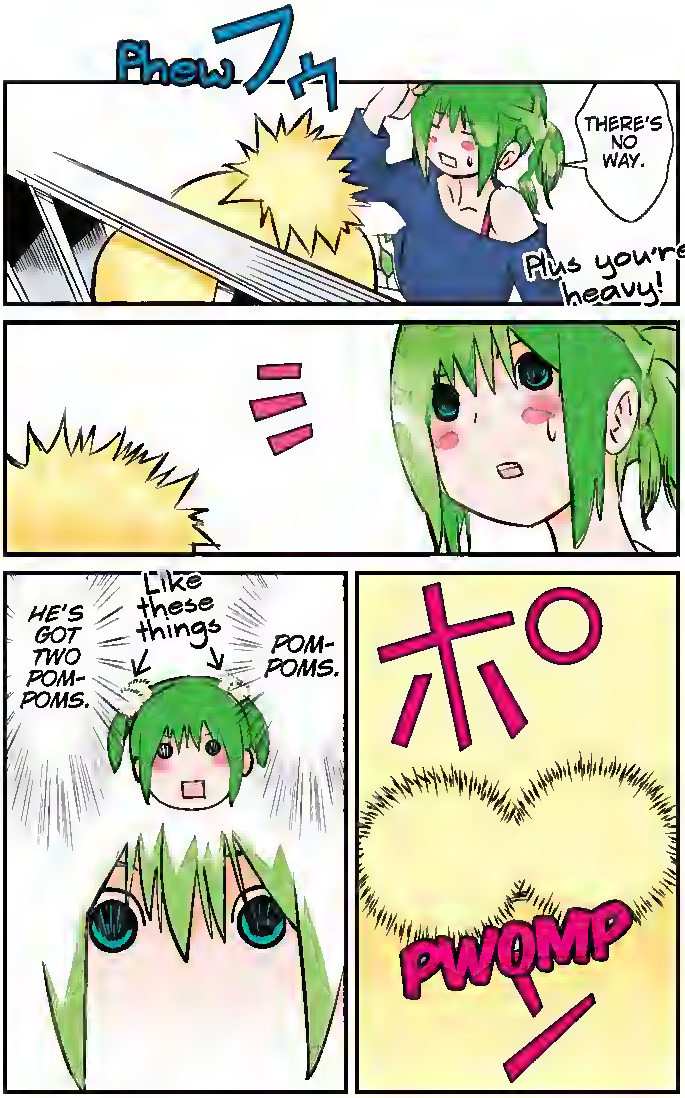
...IN THE WORLD DID THIS HAPPEN?
Squeeze
ぎゅ
ぎゅ
Squeeze
HOW...

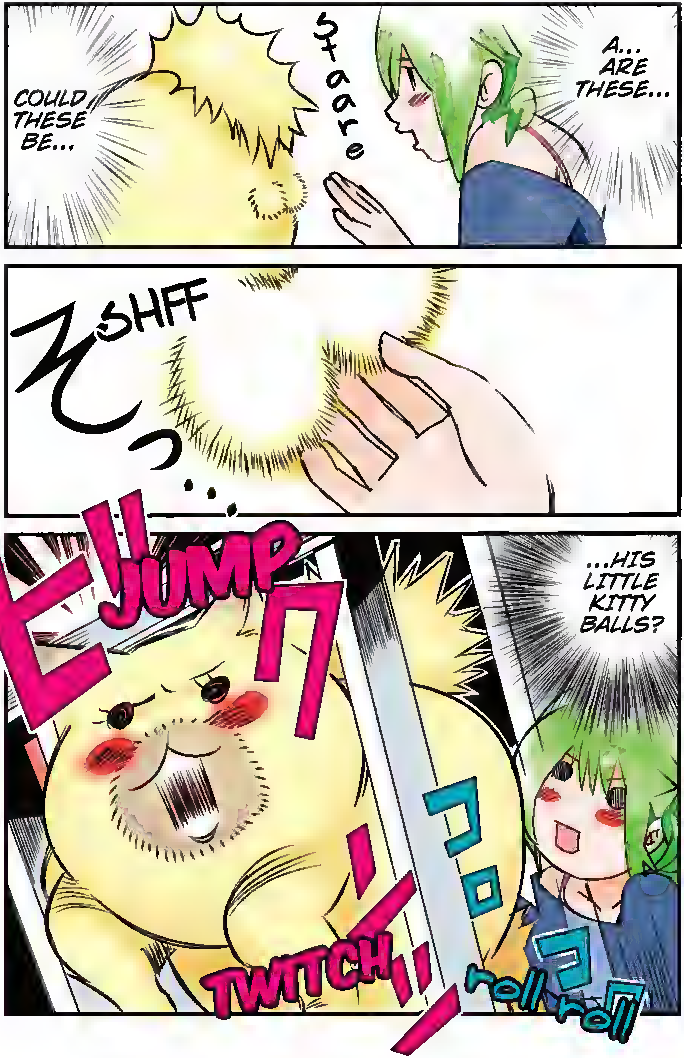

AND SOME-HOW WHILE I WAS DOING THAT...
のぞっ
Peek

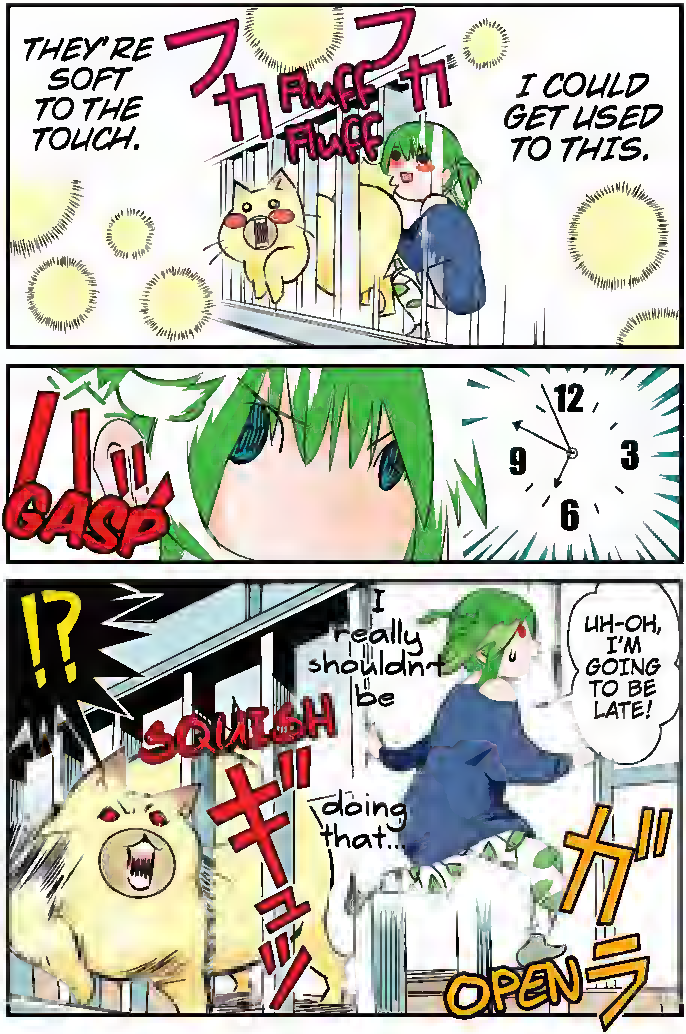
I WANTED TO DRY OUT THE LAUNDRY I HAD BUILT UP.
I WOKE UP A LITTLE EARLY TODAY.
FLAP

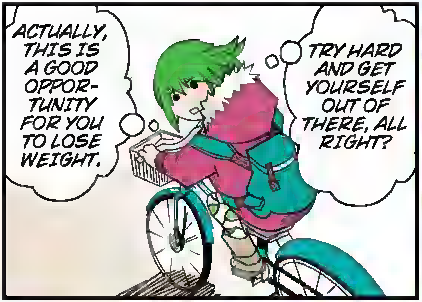

I HAD HEARD THAT ANY-PLACE A CAT COULD STICK ITS HEAD...
...IT COULD FIT ITS WHOLE BODY THROUGH.
MAYBE THE CAT...
スルリ
SLIP
...ALSO BELIEVED THAT HE WAS A NORMAL CAT, AND DIDN'T DOUBT THAT CLAIM.
カリ
KRNCH
BUT...
チ

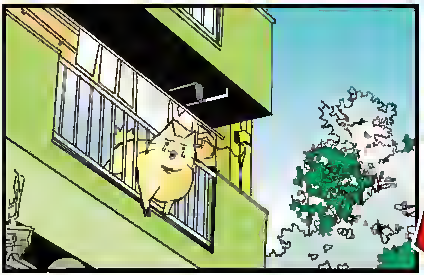
よHup
っ
OH MY GOD...
GRIPガッ!!
YOU'RE TOO FAT.
みっ
TRAPPEDちり
トロ〜ン
STREEETCH
UGH! YOU CAN STRETCH PRETTY FAR!


Phew フゥ
THERE'S NO WAY.
Plus you're heavy!
ニ
HE'S GOT TWO POM-POMS.
Like these things
POM-POMS.
ホ○
PWOMP
ー


A... ARE THESE...
Stare
COULD THESE BE...
SHFF
そっ...
JUMP
TWITCH
...HIS LITTLE KITTY BALLS?
roll roll

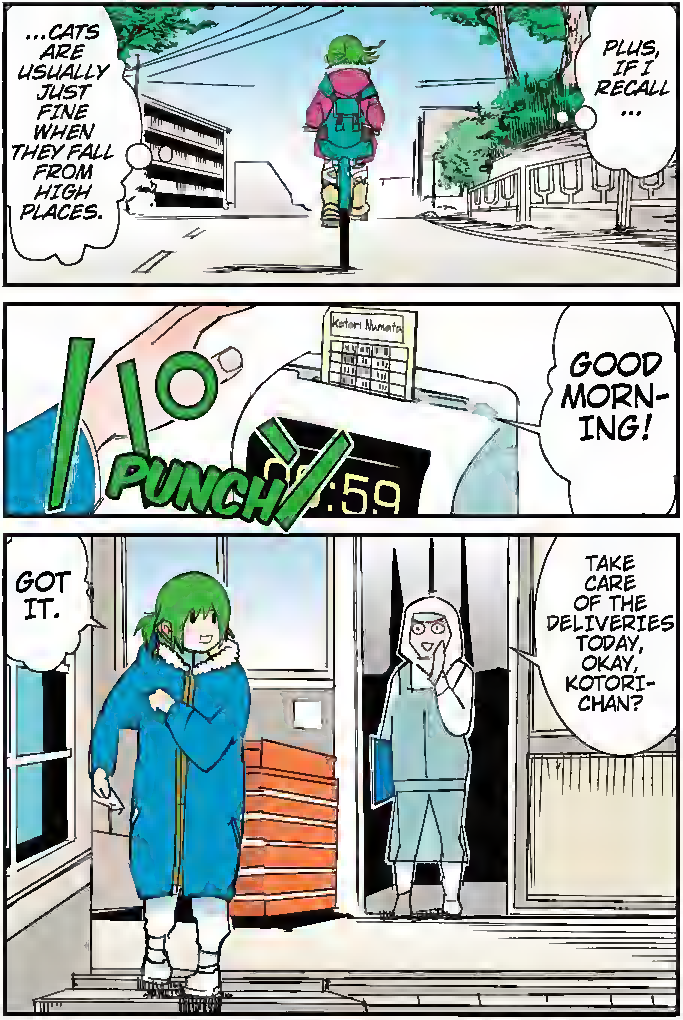

THEY'RE SOFT TO THE TOUCH.
フカ Fluff フカ Fluff
I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
!! GASP
12
3
6
9
!?
SQUISH
ギュッ
I really shouldn't be doing that...
UH-OH, I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
ガラ OPEN

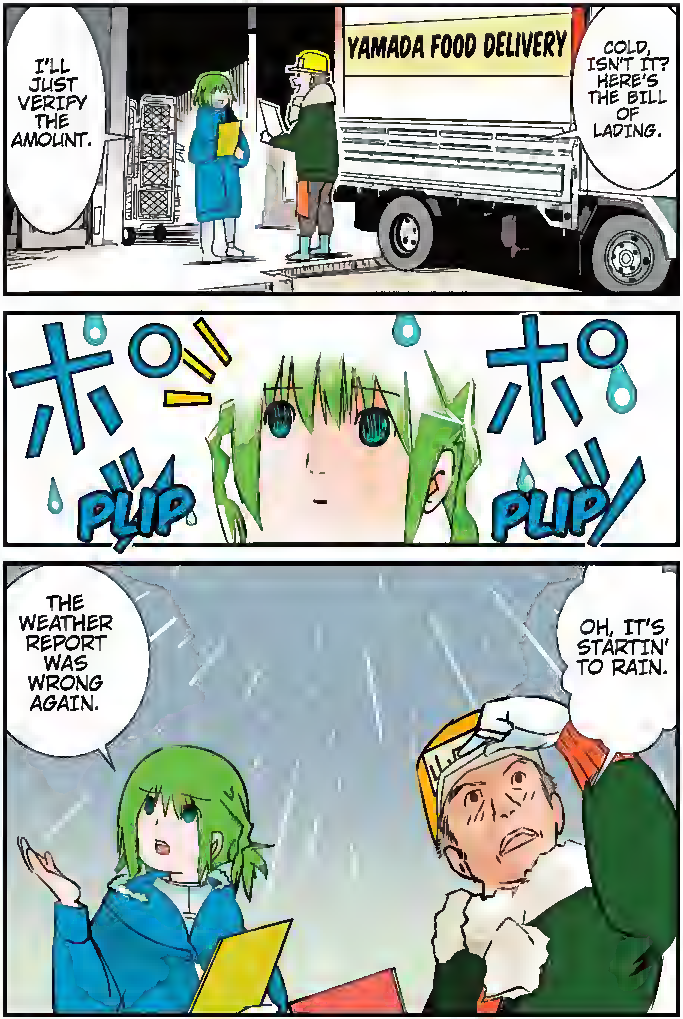

ACTUALLY, THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO LOSE WEIGHT.
TRY HARD AND GET YOURSELF OUT OF THERE, ALL RIGHT?

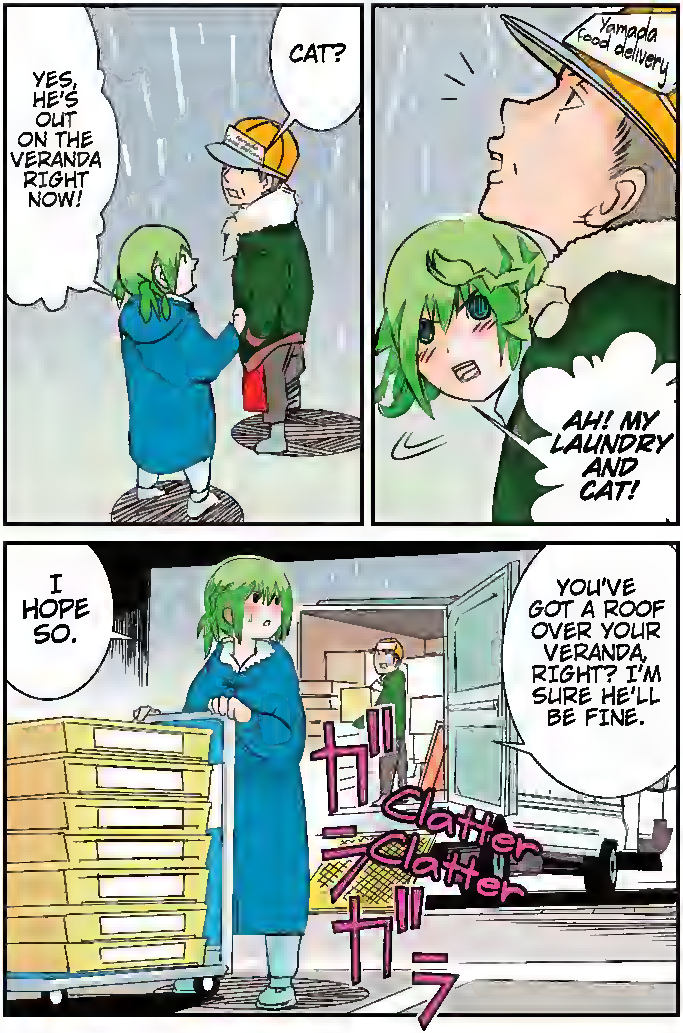


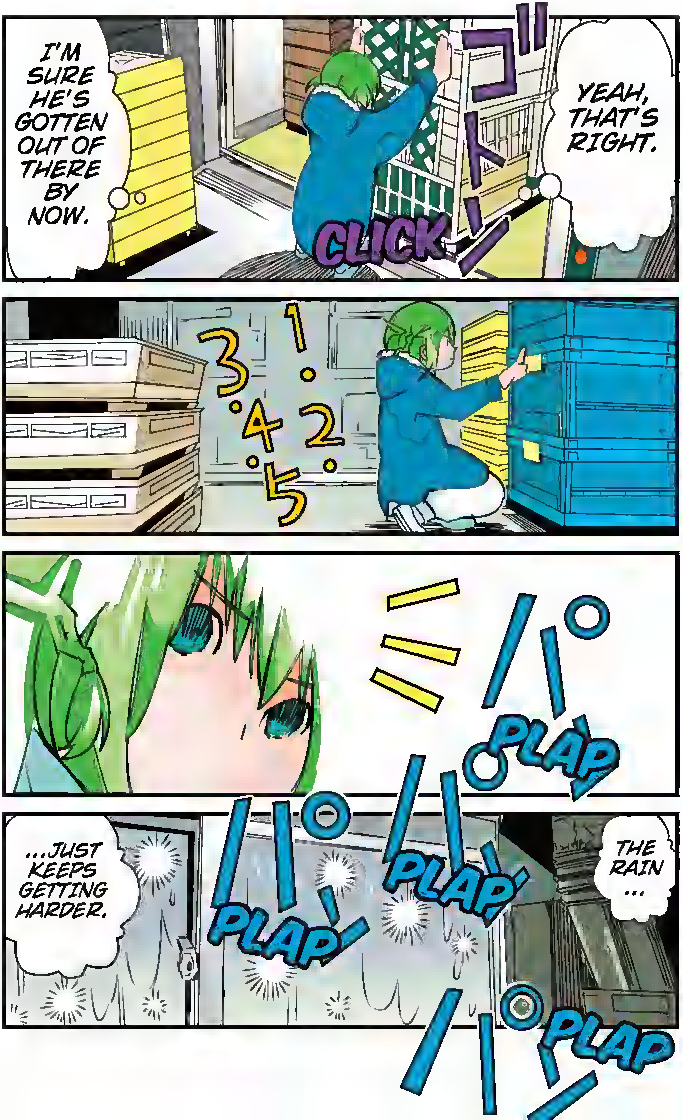
...SO IT'S GOOD HE HAS ALL THAT PADDING TO KEEP HIM FROM GETTING HURT!
THOUGH IF HE FELL FROM THAT HEIGHT IT MIGHT KILL HIM...

ぐにゃあああ
Mreaaaaaaaaww


...CATS ARE USUALLY JUST FINE WHEN THEY FALL FROM HIGH PLACES.
PLUS, IF I RECALL ...
Kotori Numata
PUNCH
GOOD MORN-ING!
GOT IT.
TAKE CARE OF THE DELIVERIES TODAY, OKAY, KOTORI-CHAN?

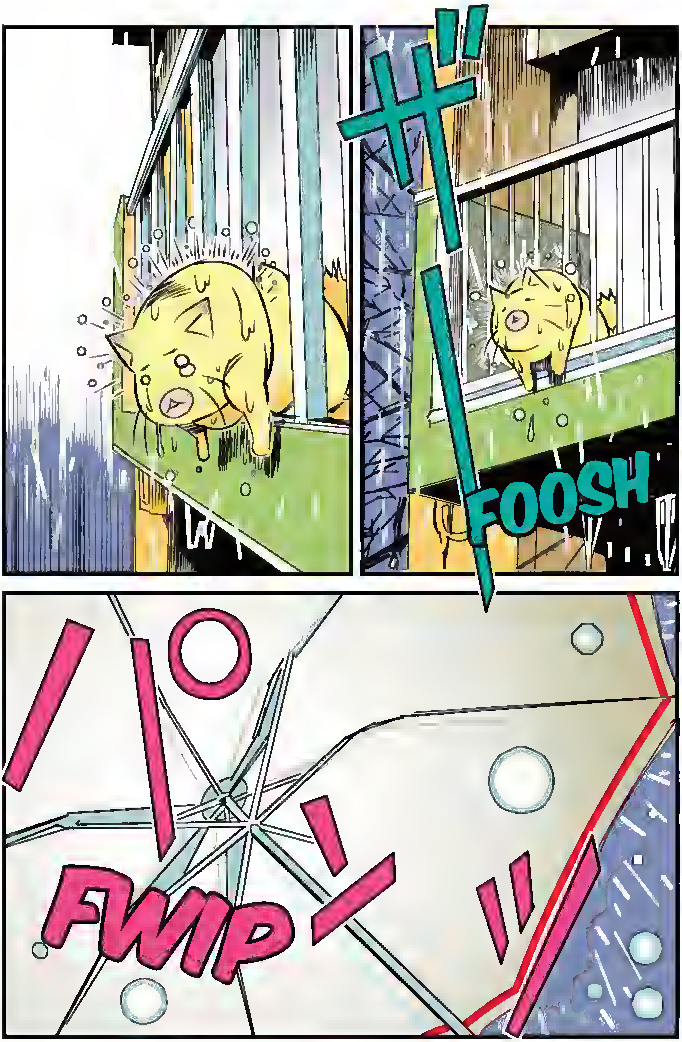

I'LL JUST VERIFY THE AMOUNT.
YAMADA FOOD DELIVERY
COLD, ISN'T IT? HERE'S THE BILL OF LADING.
ポツ
PLIP
ポツ
PLIP
THE WEATHER REPORT WAS WRONG AGAIN.
OH, IT'S STARTIN' TO RAIN.

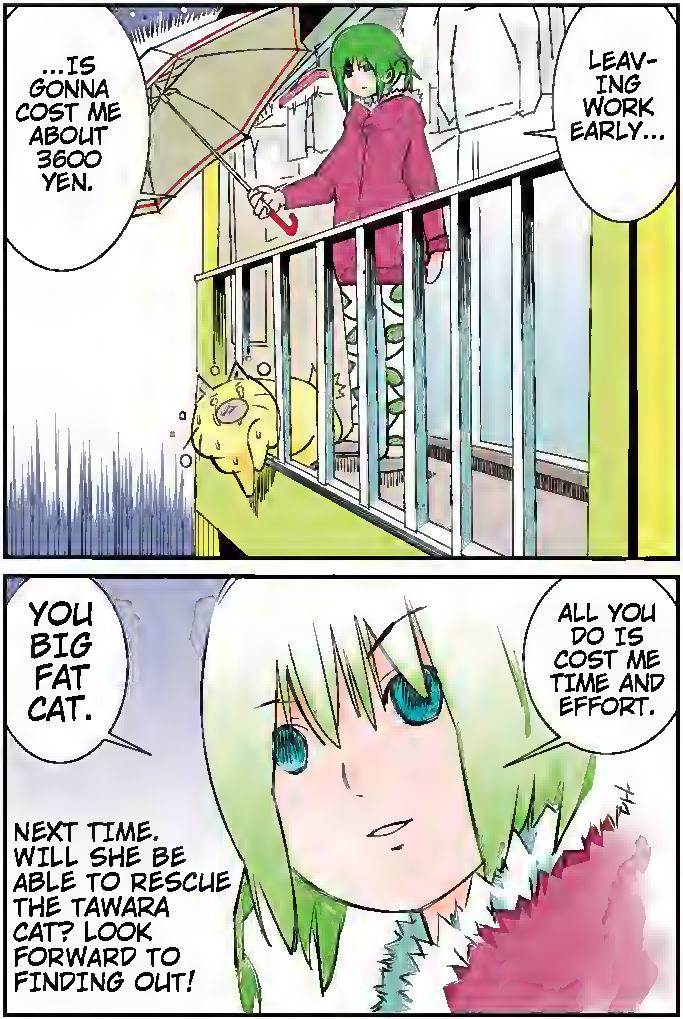

CAT?
YES, HE'S OUT ON THE VERANDA RIGHT NOW!
Yamada food delivery
AH! MY LAUNDRY AND CAT!
YOU'VE GOT A ROOF OVER YOUR VERANDA, RIGHT? I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE.
I HOPE SO.
clatter clatter


I'M SURE HE'S GOTTEN OUT OF THERE BY NOW.
ゴト
CLICK
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
PLAP
...JUST KEEPS GETTING HARDER.
PLAP
PLAP
THE RAIN ...
PLAP

FWOOOSH
PLOOP
PLOOP

ぶにゃあ
Breaaaaoooooooooo
おぉん


FOOSH
FWIP


LEAV-
ING
WORK
EARLY...
...IS
GONNA
COST ME
ABOUT
3600
YEN.
ALL YOU
DO IS
COST ME
TIME AND
EFFORT.
YOU
BIG
FAT
CAT.
NEXT TIME.
WILL SHE BE
ABLE TO RESCUE
THE TAWARA
CAT? LOOK
FORWARD TO
FINDING OUT!

Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc.

TAWARA 7:
KOTORI'S DRAMATIC RESCUE

TORAKO HIDAKA

THE PLAN IS TO GREASE THE CAT UP WITH OIL...
AND THEN PULL HIM OUT.
CLK
HM... SALAD OIL...
THAT'D PROB-ABLY MAKE HIM SLIMY AND HARD TO HOLD.
WHAT OTHER OIL DO I HAVE AROUND?
SOME-THING THAT WOULD WORK BET-TER...
FLUTTER
ALL RIGHT.

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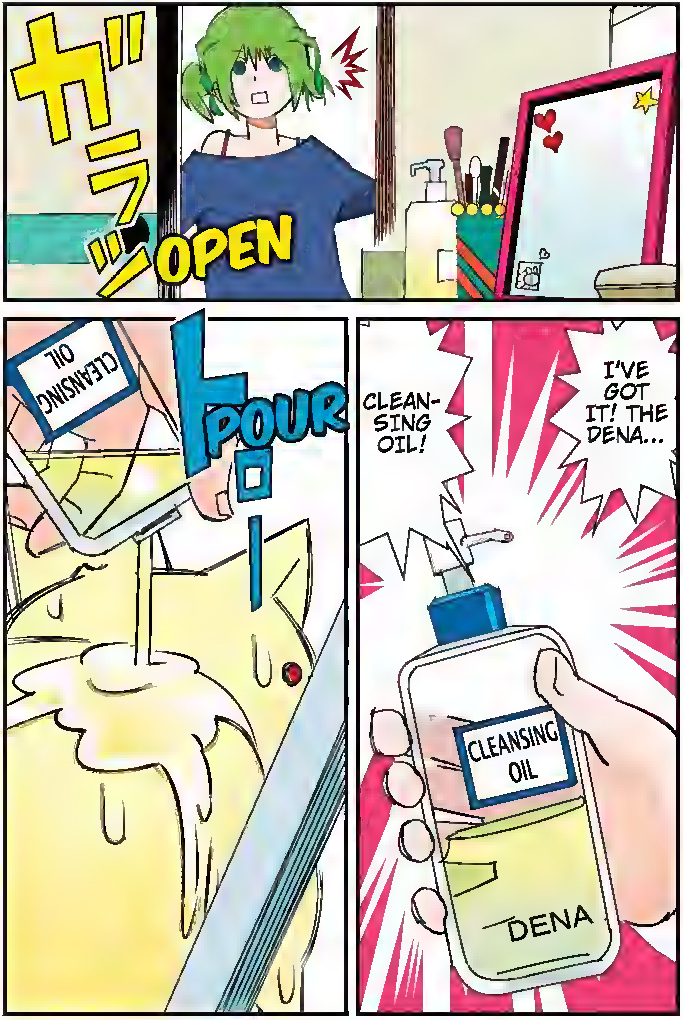
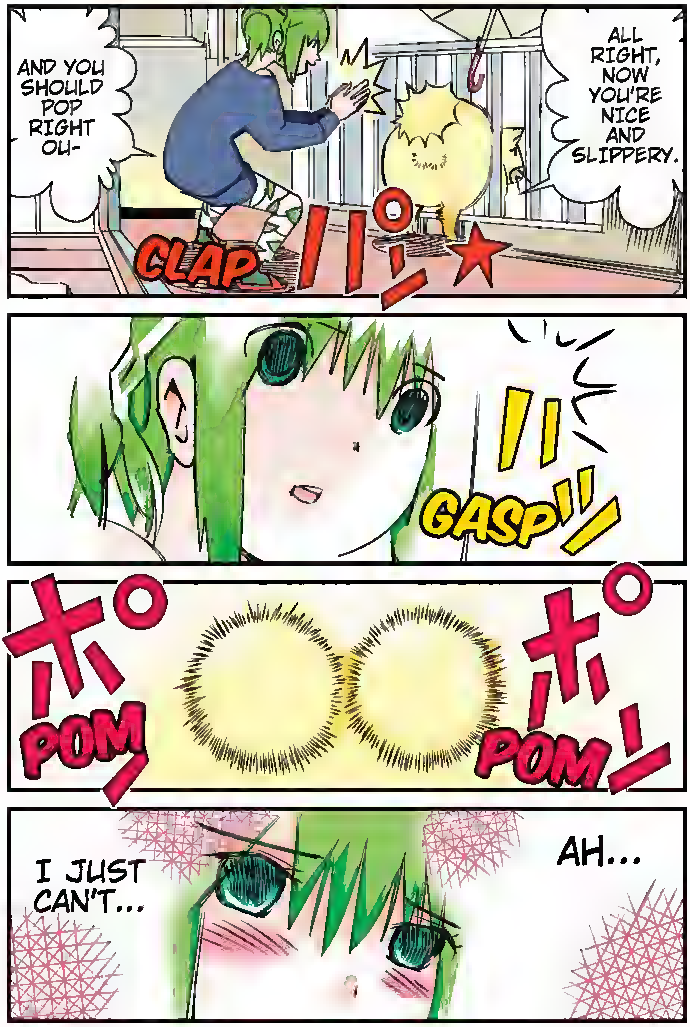
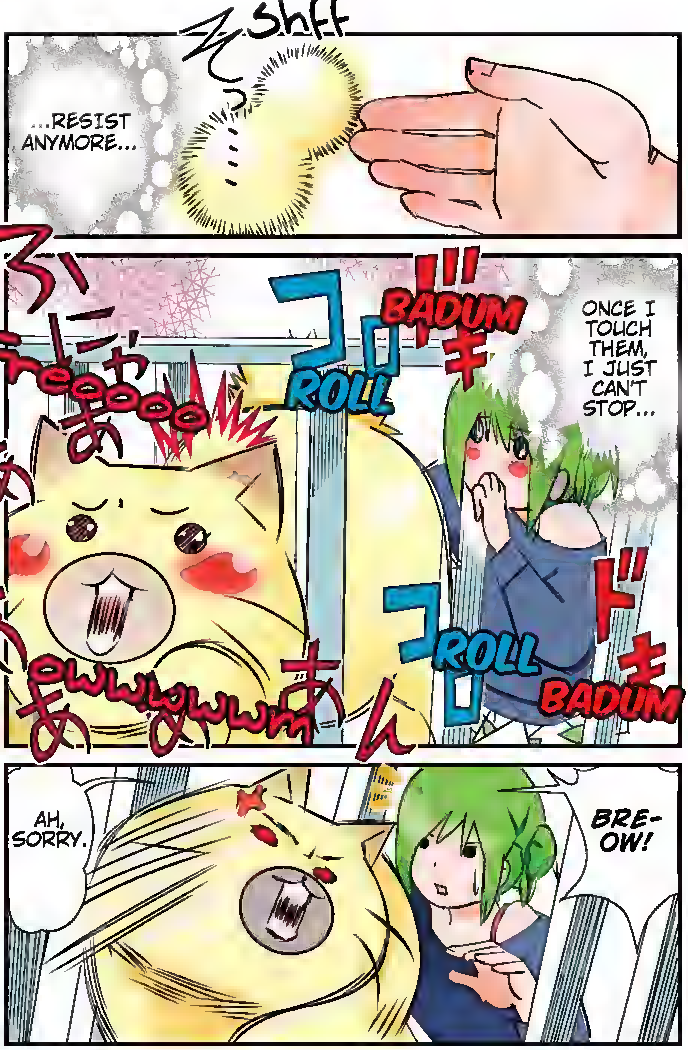
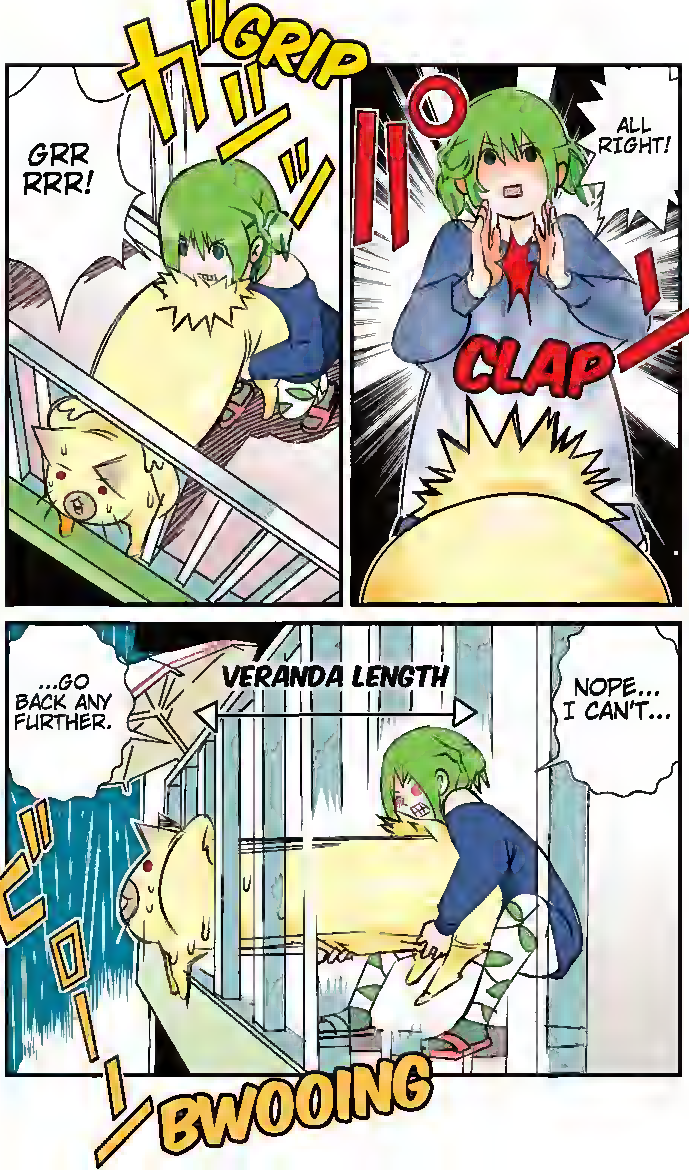
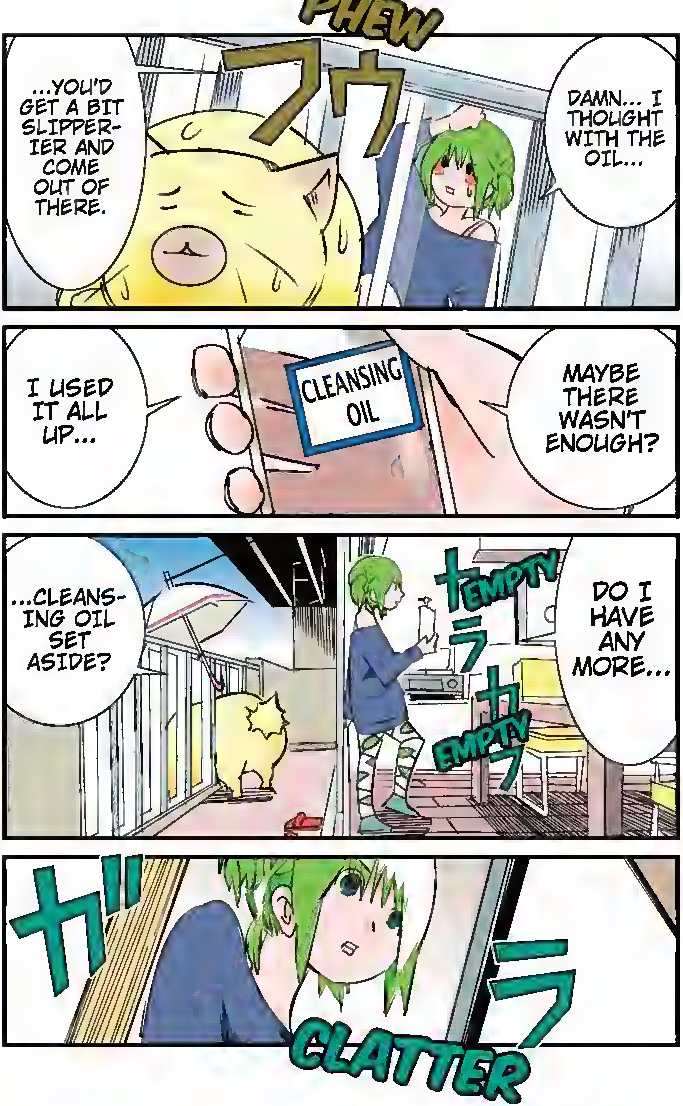

ガラッ
OPEN
CLEANSING OIL
POUR
CLEAN-SING OIL!
I'VE GOT IT! THE DENA...
CLEANSING OIL
DENA

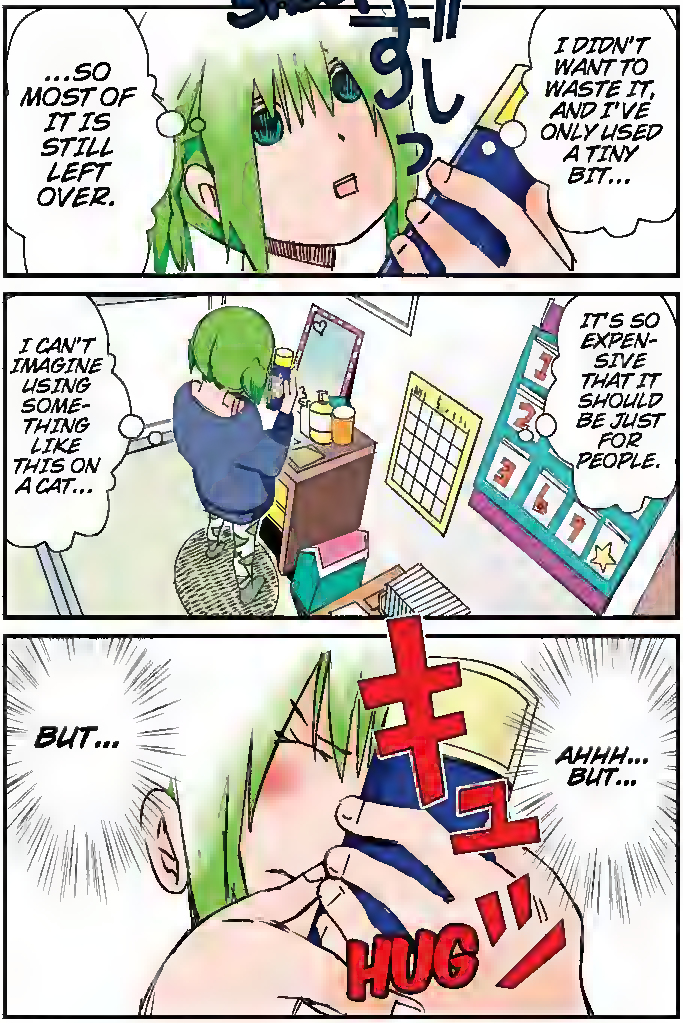

AND YOU SHOULD POP RIGHT OU-
CLAP
ALL RIGHT, NOW YOU'RE NICE AND SLIPPERY.
GASP
POM
POM
I JUST CAN'T...
AH...

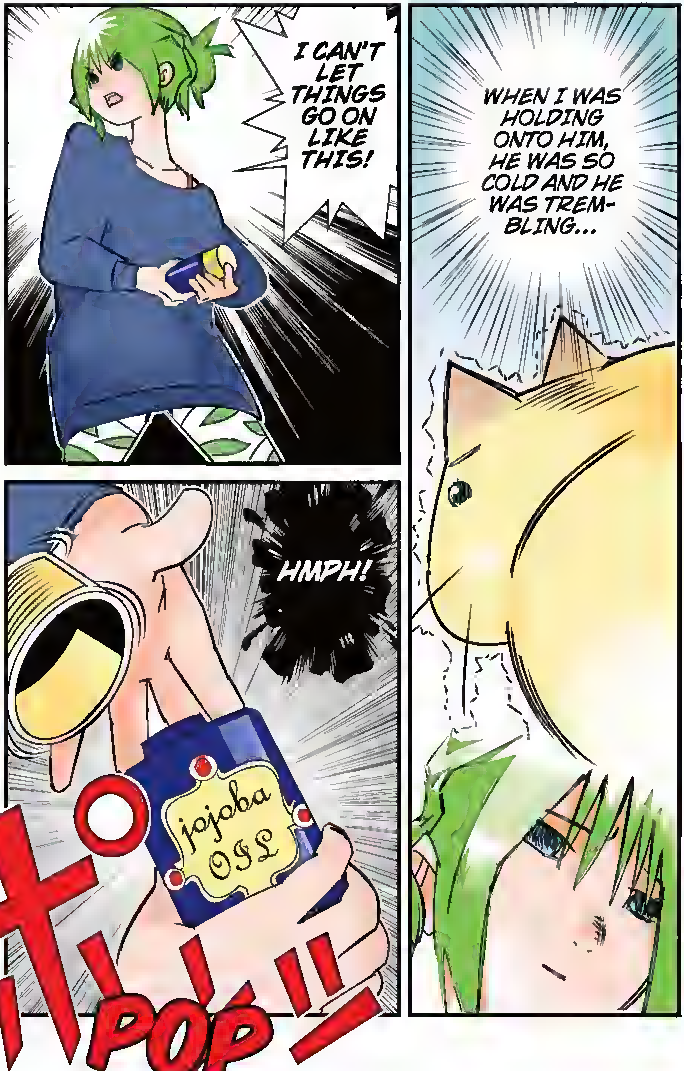

Shff
...RESIST ANYMORE...
ふにゃぁぁぁ
Meeooo
あぁぁぁぁぁん
Awwwwwwn
コロ
ROLL
ドキ
BADUM
ONCE I TOUCH THEM, I JUST CAN'T STOP...
コロ
ROLL
ドキ
BADUM
AH, SORRY.
BRE-OW!

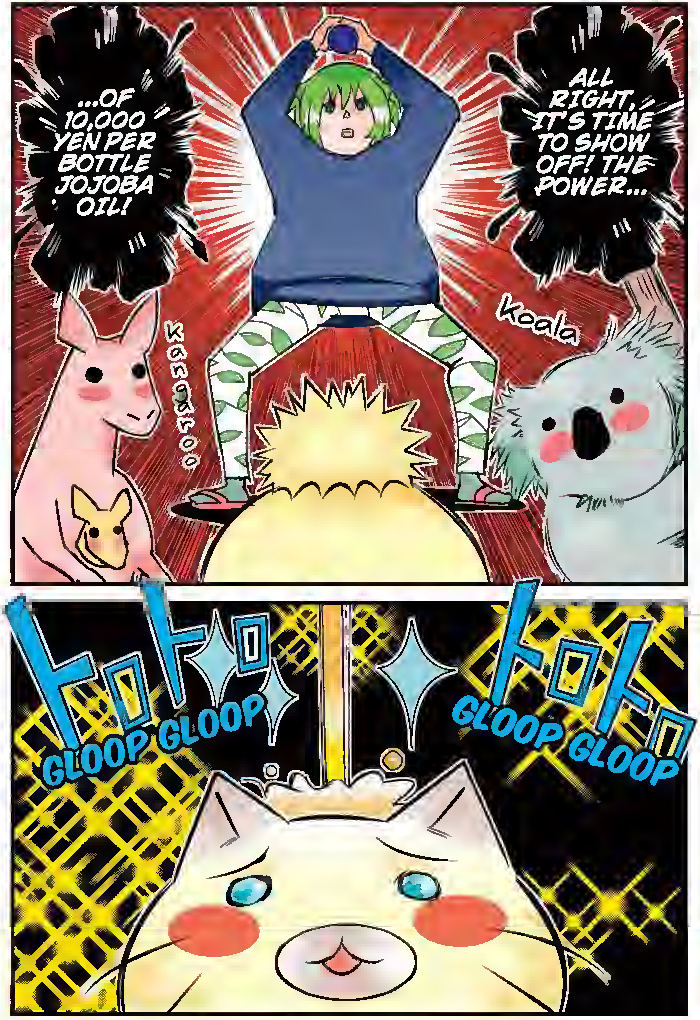

GRIP
GRR RRR!
ALL RIGHT!
CLAP
VERANDA LENGTH
...GO BACK ANY FURTHER.
NOPE... I CAN'T...
BWOOING

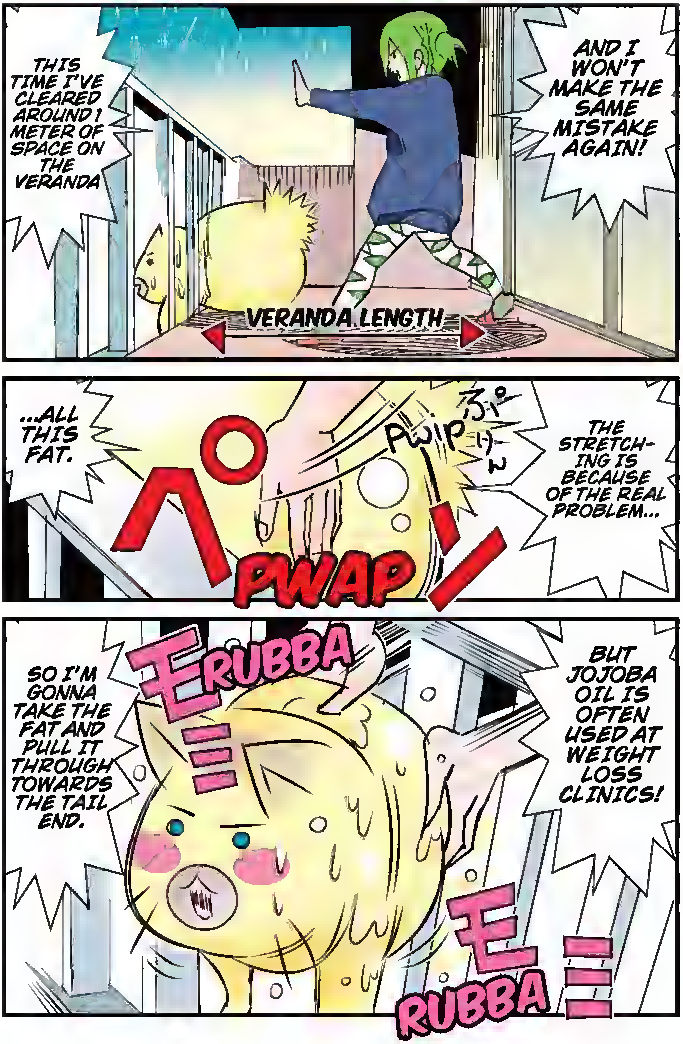

PHEW
フウ
...YOU'D GET A BIT SLIPPER-IER AND COME OUT OF THERE.
DAMN... I THOUGHT WITH THE OIL...
CLEANSING OIL
I USED IT ALL UP...
MAYBE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH?
...CLEANS-ING OIL SET ASIDE?
EMPTY
カラ
EMPTY
カラ
DO I HAVE ANY MORE...
カラ
CLATTER

...AND BROUGHT IT BACK AS A SOUVE-NIR.
MY DAD WENT TO AUSTRALIA ON A BUSINESS TRIP...
WAIT... I HAVE THIS?
TADA
ONE BOTTLE FOR 10,000 YEN.
THE HIGHEST QUALITY JOJOBA OIL.
jojoba OIL
ALL NATURAL PRODUCT FOR SKIN CARE, HAIR CARE, AND MASSAGES. AN ALL-PURPOSE OIL.


Sheep
すっ
I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE IT, AND I'VE ONLY USED A TINY BIT...
...SO MOST OF IT IS STILL LEFT OVER.
IT'S SO EXPEN-SIVE THAT IT SHOULD BE JUST FOR PEOPLE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE USING SOME-THING LIKE THIS ON A CAT...
AHHH... BUT...
キュッ
HUG
BUT...


I CAN'T LET THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS!
WHEN I WAS HOLDING ONTO HIM, HE WAS SO COLD AND HE WAS TREMBLING...
HMPH!
jojoba OIL
POP!!

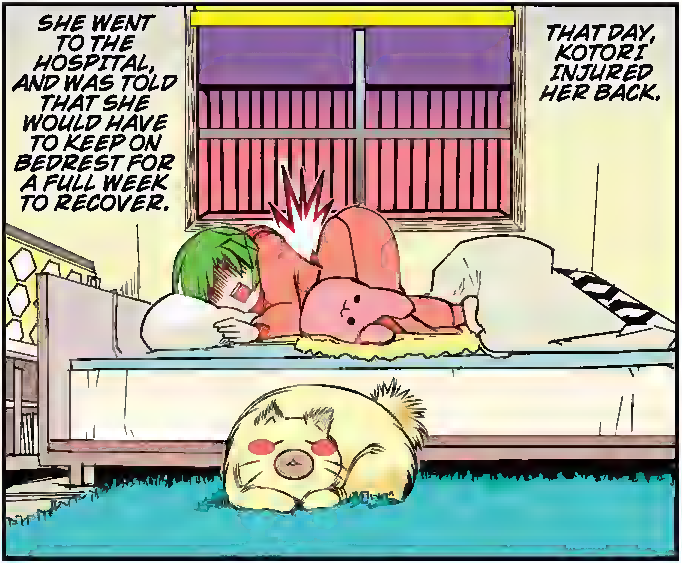

...OF 10,000 YEN PER BOTTLE JOJOBA OIL!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S TIME TO SHOW OFF! THE POWER...
Kangaroo
Koala
GLOOP GLOOP
GLOOP GLOOP

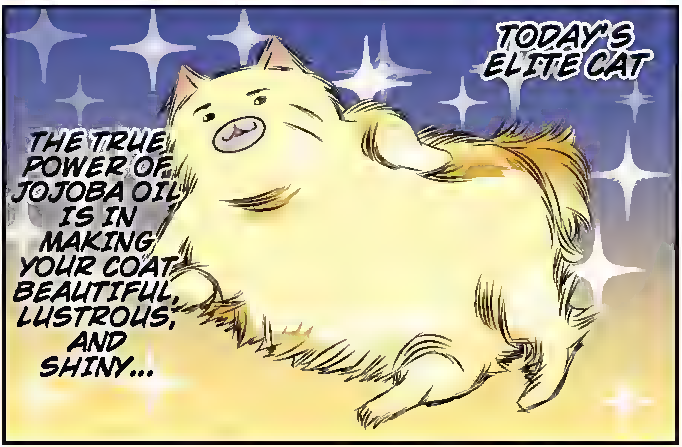

THIS TIME I'VE CLEARED AROUND 1 METER OF SPACE ON THE VERANDA
AND I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN!
VERANDA LENGTH
...ALL THIS FAT.
PWAP
PWIP
THE STRETCHING IS BECAUSE OF THE REAL PROBLEM...
SO I'M GONNA TAKE THE FAT AND PULL IT THROUGH TOWARDS THE TAIL END.
ERUBBA
BUT JOJOBA OIL IS OFTEN USED AT WEIGHT LOSS CLINICS!
RUBBA

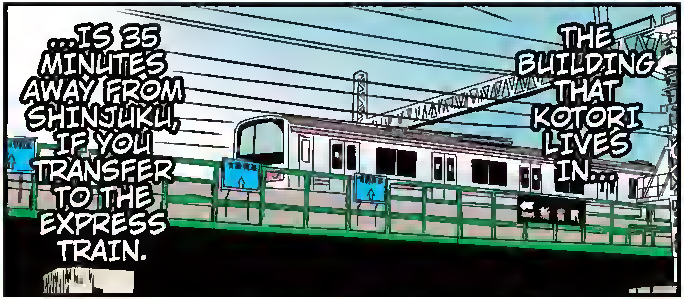
LET'S DO THIS!
ALL RIGHT!
GRAB
ぬお
おおおo

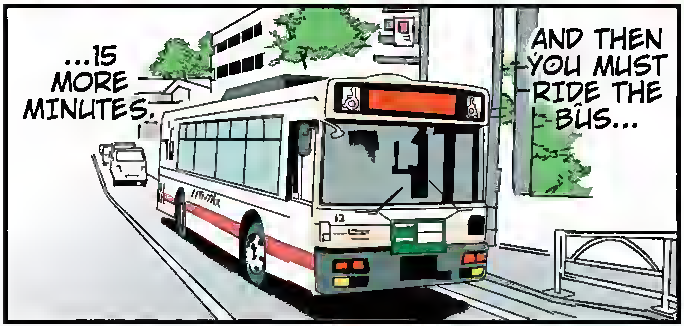
HE'S FREE! THIS IS...
...THE POWER OF JOJOBA!
スポオオオ!!
SHWOOP!!

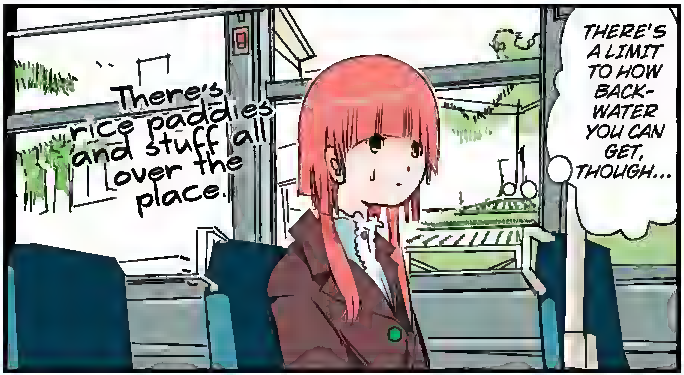
キャーーー


THAT DAY, KOTORI INJURED HER BACK.
SHE WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, AND WAS TOLD THAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO KEEP ON BEDREST FOR A FULL WEEK TO RECOVER.


TODAY'S ELITE CAT
THE TRUE POWER OF JOJOBA OIL IS IN MAKING YOUR COAT BEAUTIFUL, LUSTROUS, AND SHINY...







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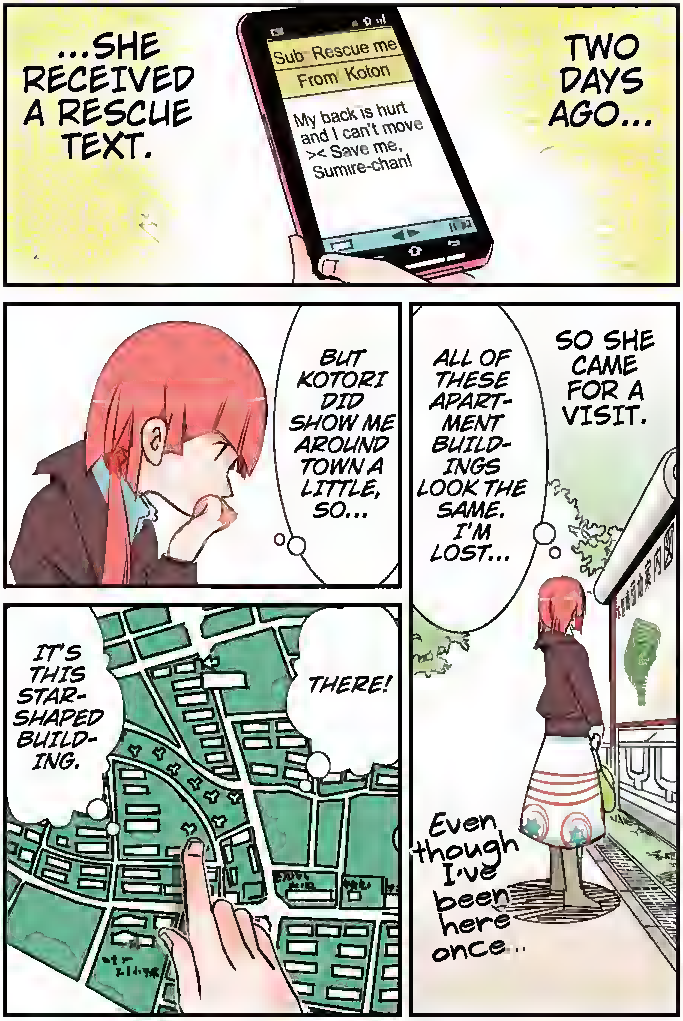
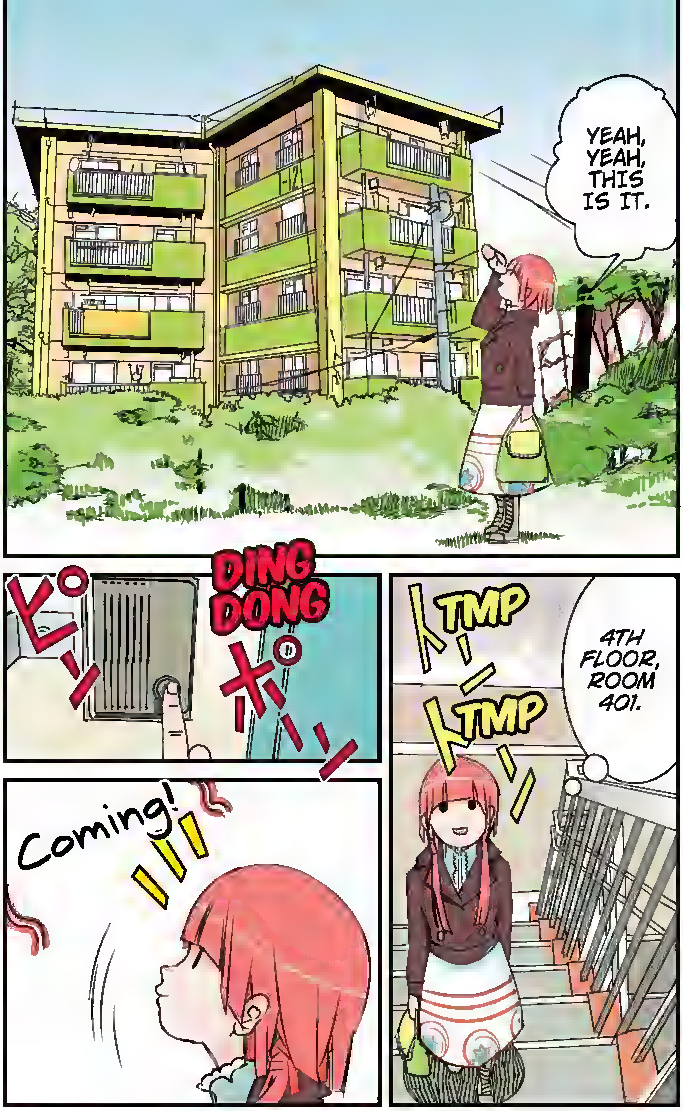
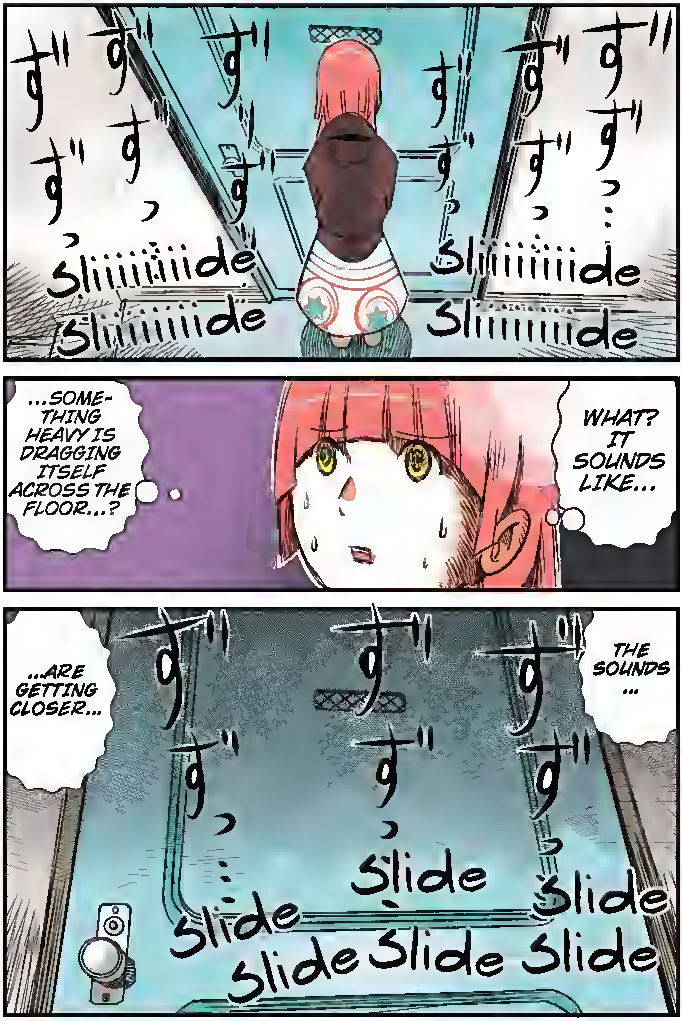
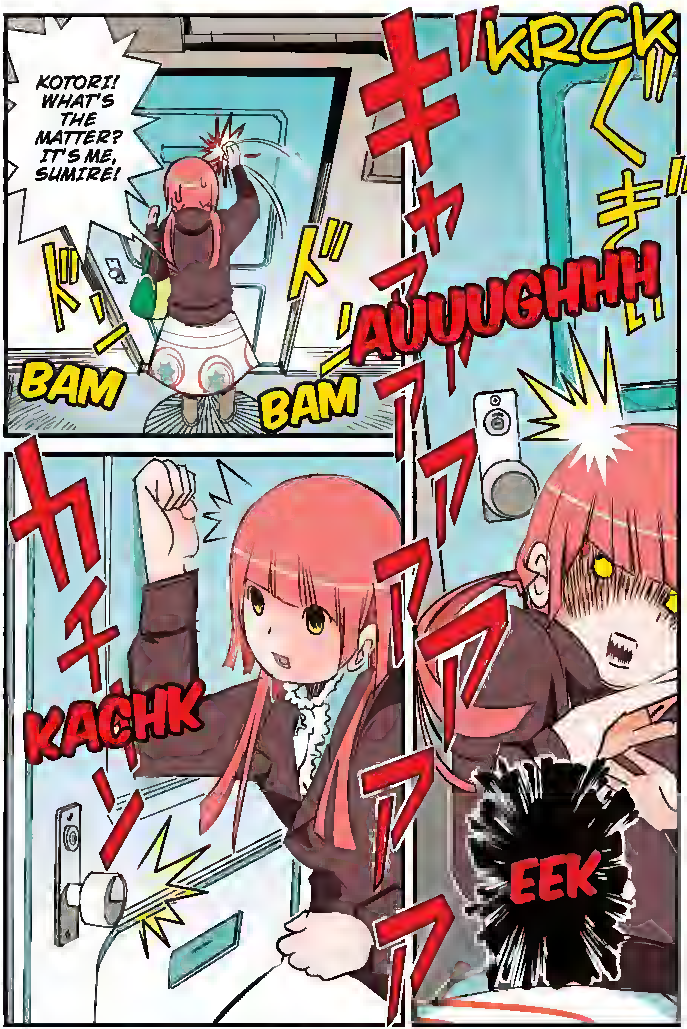
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc.

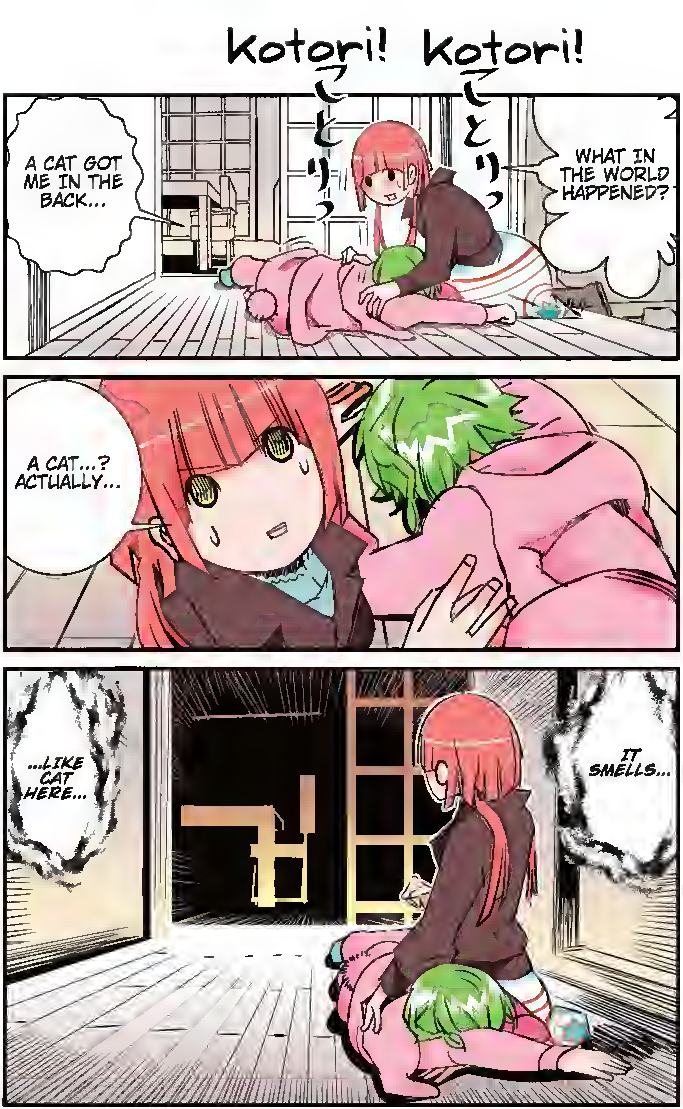

...SHE RECEIVED A RESCUE TEXT.
Sub: Rescue me
From: Koton
My back is hurt and I can't move >< Save me, Sumire-chan!
TWO DAYS AGO...
BUT KOTORI DID SHOW ME AROUND TOWN A LITTLE, SO...
ALL OF THESE APART-MENT BUILD-INGS LOOK THE SAME. I'M LOST...
SO SHE CAME FOR A VISIT.
IT'S THIS STAR-SHAPED BUILD-ING.
THERE!
Even though I've been here once...

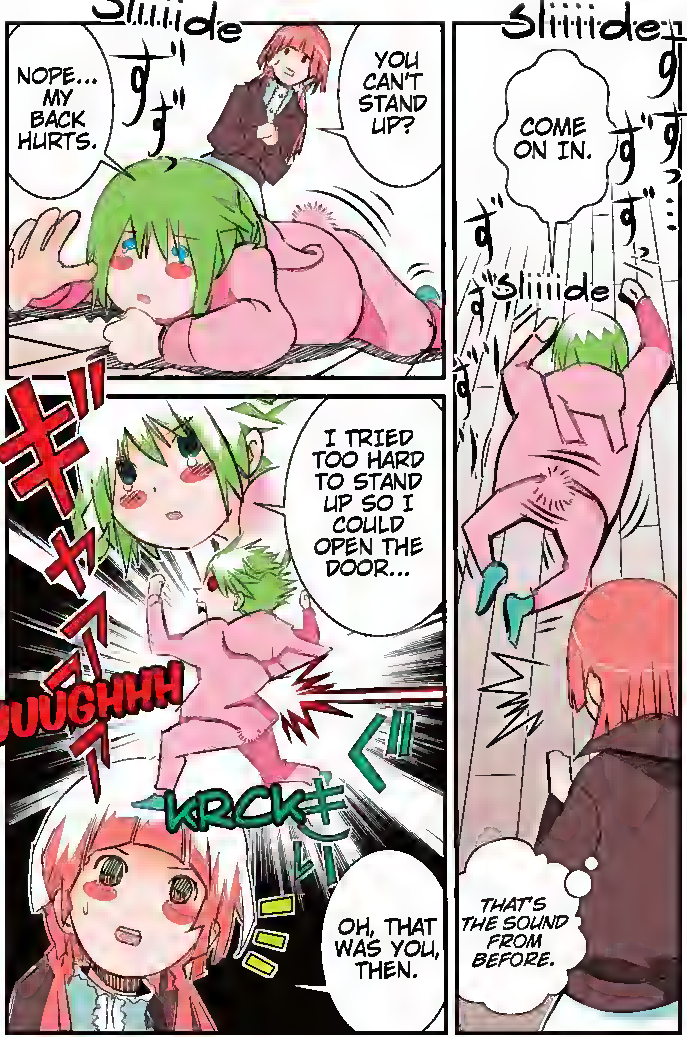

YEAH, YEAH, THIS IS IT.
DING DONG
ピンポーン
Coming!
トントン
トントン
4TH FLOOR, ROOM 401.

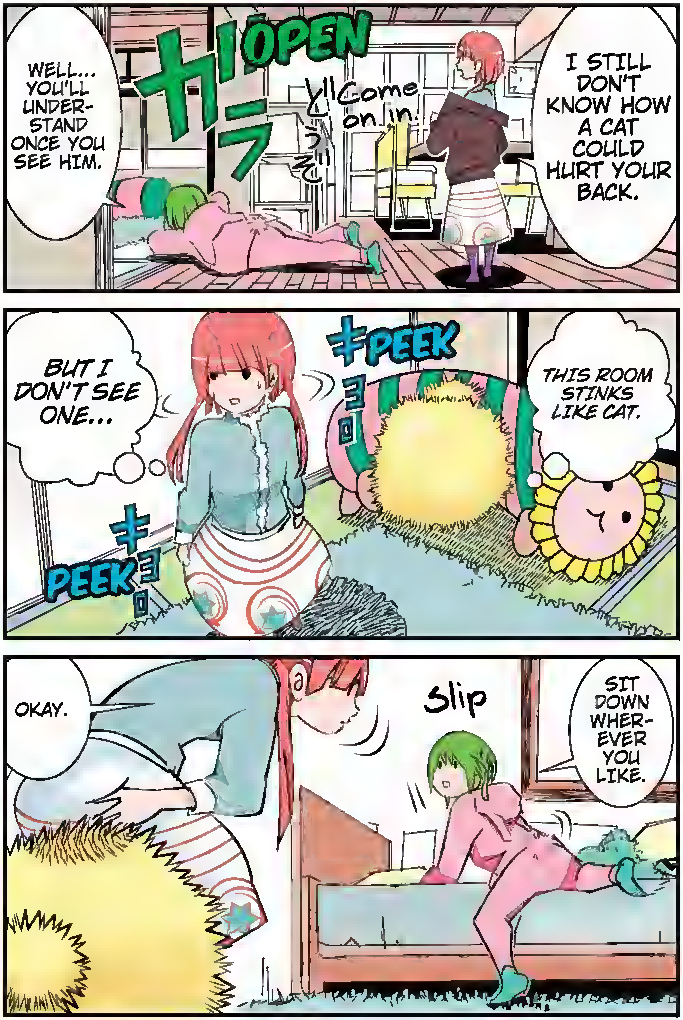

ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず
ずっ ずっ ずっ
Sliiiiiiide
Sliiiiiiide
Sliiiiiiide
Sliiiiiiide
...SOMETHING HEAVY IS DRAGGING ITSELF ACROSS THE FLOOR...?
WHAT? IT SOUNDS LIKE...
...ARE GETTING CLOSER...
THE SOUNDS ...
ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず ず
ずっ ずっ ずっ
Slide
Slide
Slide
Slide
Slide
Slide
Slide

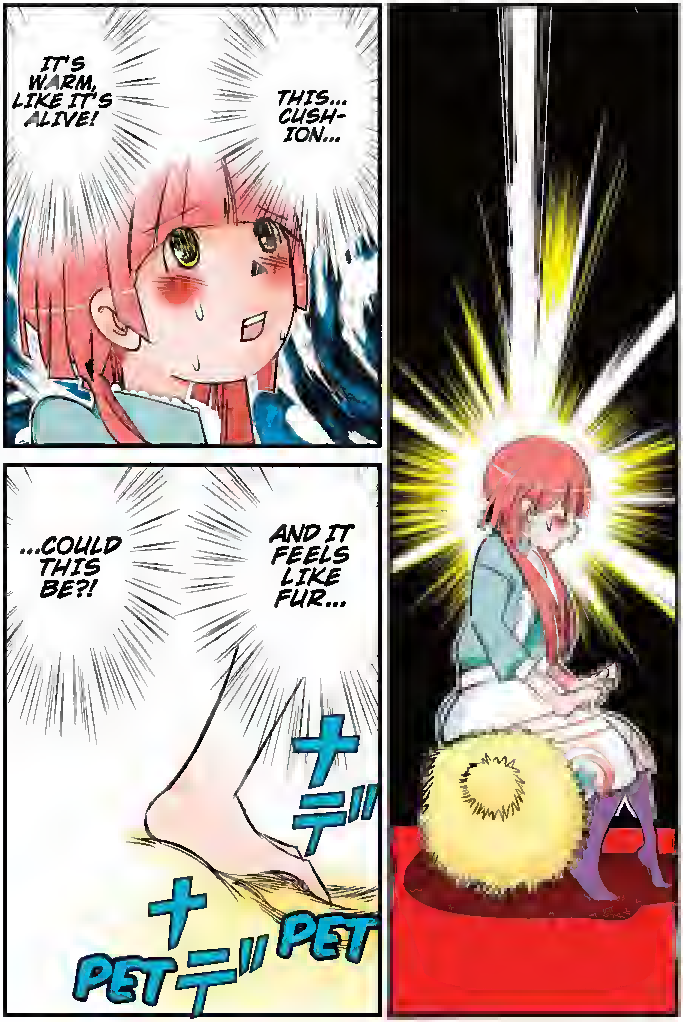

KOTORI! WHAT'S THE MATTER? IT'S ME, SUMIRE!
ドン
BAM
BAM
ガチャ
AUUUGHHH
KRCK
ガチ
KACHK
ファファファファ
EEK

IT'S OPEN... COME IN...
SU... MIRE....
TADAAA
K-KOTORI!
キィィィ

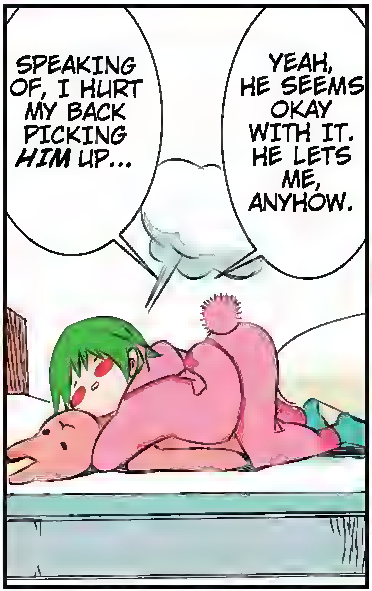

Kotori! Kotori!
ことり～
ことり～
A CAT GOT ME IN THE BACK...
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?
A CAT...? ACTUALLY...
...LIKE CAT HERE...
IT SMELLS...


Sliiiide
NOPE... MY BACK HURTS.
YOU CAN'T STAND UP?
Sliiiide
COME ON IN.
Sliiiide
THAT'S THE SOUND FROM BEFORE.
I TRIED TOO HARD TO STAND UP SO I COULD OPEN THE DOOR...
AUUUGHHH
KRCK
OH, THAT WAS YOU, THEN.

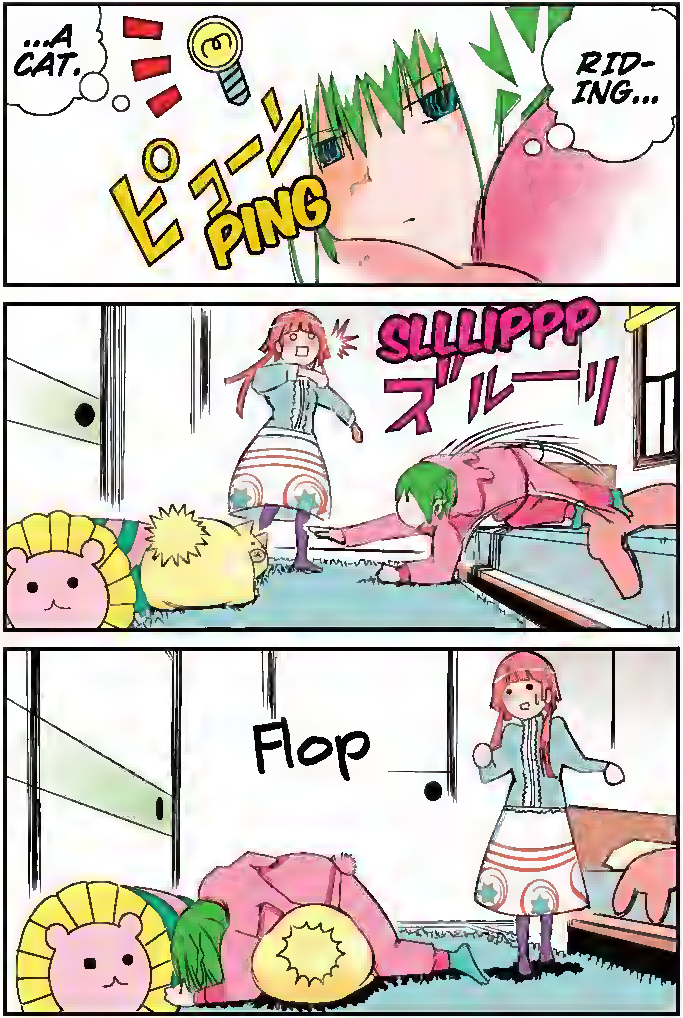

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW A CAT COULD HURT YOUR BACK.
カラ OPEN
Come on in.
どうぞ
WELL... YOU'LL UNDER-STAND ONCE YOU SEE HIM.
THIS ROOM STINKS LIKE CAT.
PEEK
PEEK
BUT I DON'T SEE ONE...
SIT DOWN WHER-EVER YOU LIKE.
Slip
OKAY.

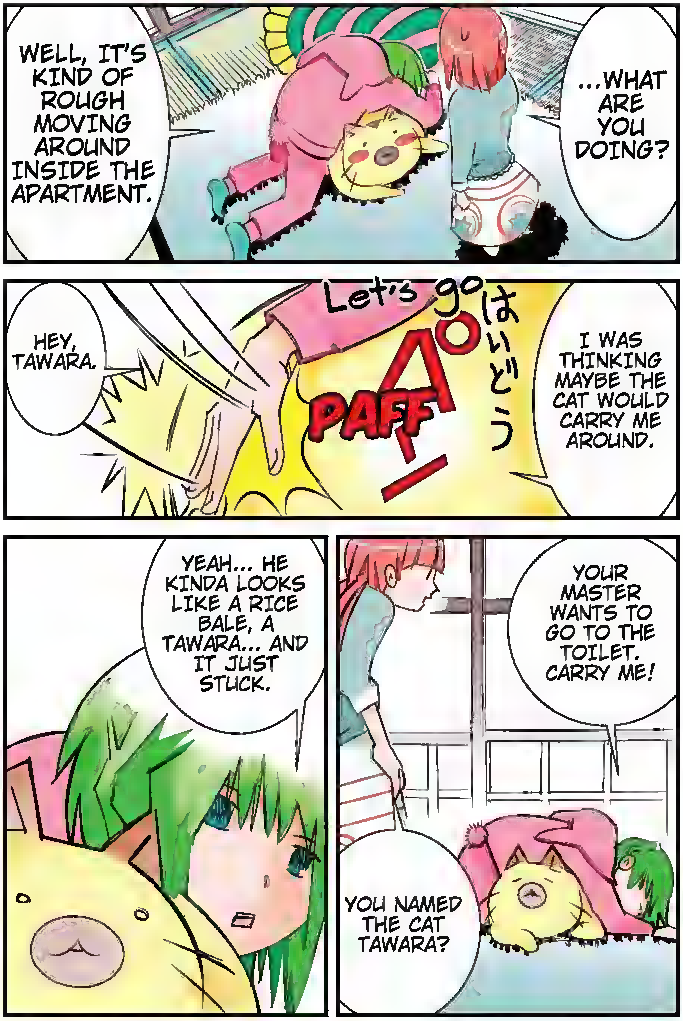

IT'S WARM, LIKE IT'S ALIVE!
THIS... CUSH-ION...
...COULD THIS BE?!
AND IT FEELS LIKE FUR...
ナデ
ナデ
PET
PET

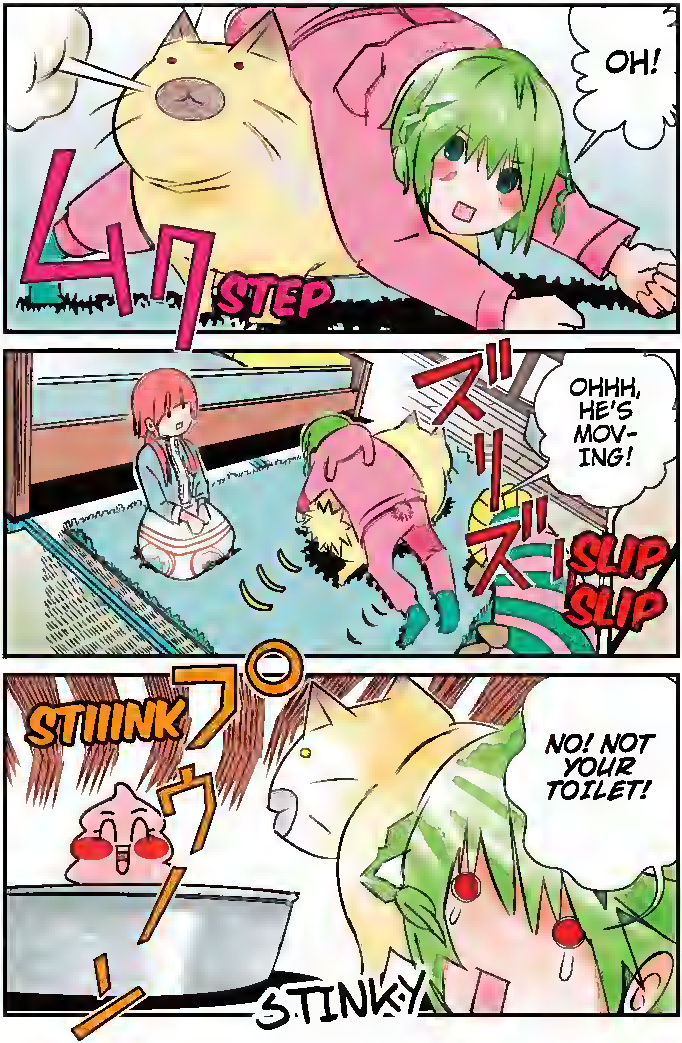
WHAT?!
Breow
ぶにゃ
GASP
E!!
THAT'S THE CAT.

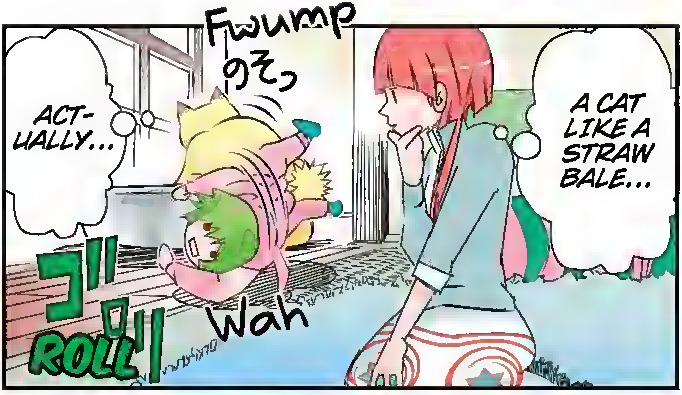

SPEAKING OF, I HURT MY BACK PICKING *HIM* UP...
YEAH, HE SEEMS OKAY WITH IT. HE LETS ME, ANYHOW.

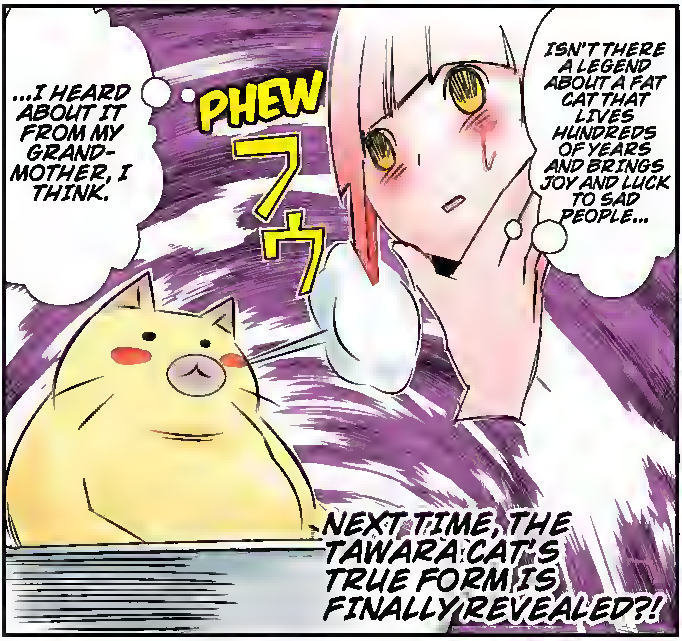
IS IT OKAY FOR SOME-ONE TO SIT ON IT?
IT'S HUGE! OR... FAT, I GUESS!


...A CAT.
ピューン
PING
RID-ING...
SLLLIPPP
ズルーリ
Flop


WELL, IT'S KIND OF ROUGH MOVING AROUND INSIDE THE APARTMENT.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEY, TAWARA.
Let's go
はいどう
PAFF
I WAS THINKING MAYBE THE CAT WOULD CARRY ME AROUND.
YEAH... HE KINDA LOOKS LIKE A RICE BALE, A TAWARA... AND IT JUST STUCK.
YOUR MASTER WANTS TO GO TO THE TOILET. CARRY ME!
YOU NAMED THE CAT TAWARA?


OH!
4 STEP
OHHH, HE'S MOV-ING!
ズリ
ズリ
SLIP
SLIP
STIIINK
NO! NOT YOUR TOILET!
STINKY


Fwump
のそっ
ACT-UALLY...
A CAT LIKE A STRAW BALE...
コロ!!
ROLL!
Wah


...I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MY GRAND-MOTHER, I THINK.
PHEW
フゥ
ISN'T THERE A LEGEND ABOUT A FAT CAT THAT LIVES HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND BRINGS JOY AND LUCK TO SAD PEOPLE...
CRANES LIVE A THOU-SAND YEARS. TURTLES LIVE TEN-THOU-SAND. DO CATS LIVE A HUN-DRED...? WHAT IS THE SECRET HIDDEN IN THE TAWARA CAT?
NEXT TIME, THE TAWARA CAT'S TRUE FORM IS FINALLY REVEALED?!

TAWARA CAT

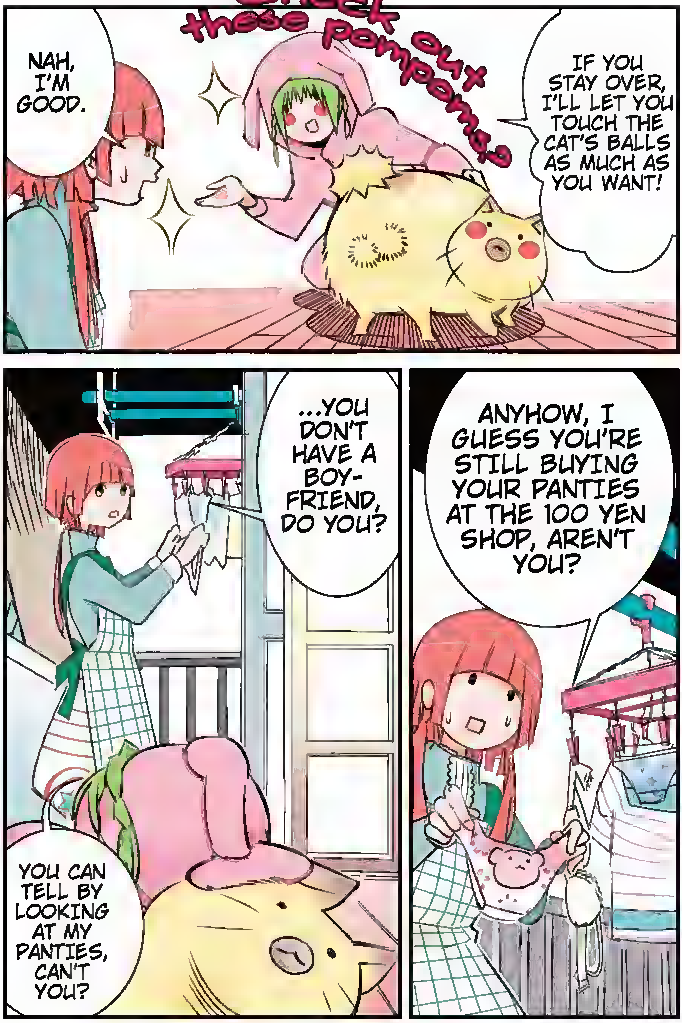
TAWARA 10: KOTORI'S SAVIOR (2)

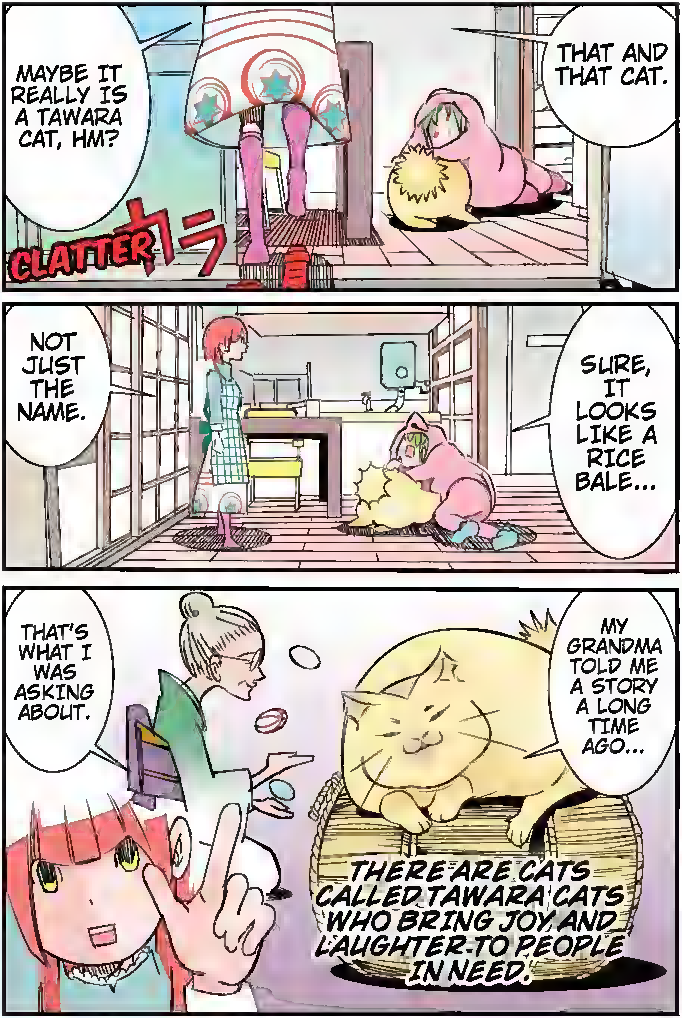
ONCE UPON A TIME, THE TWO OF THEM TRAVELED TO TOKYO TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS.
SUMIRE ON VOCALS
KOTORI ON KEYBOARD
TORAKO HIDAKA

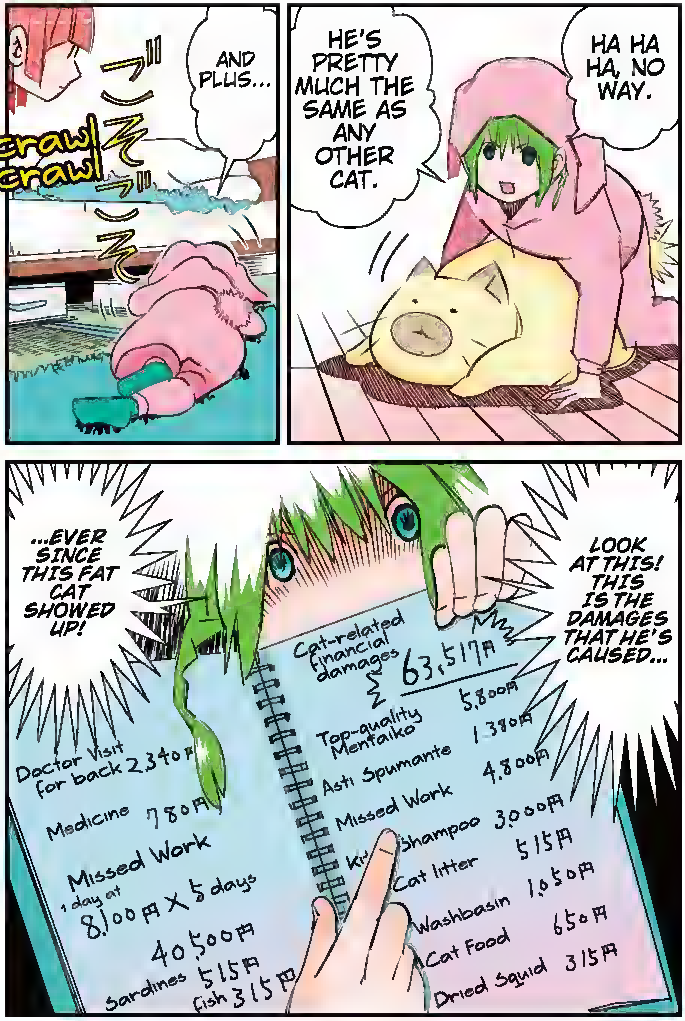
Translation by Abby Lehrke
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc.

...JUST TO DO YOUR CLEANING AND LAUNDRY AND COOK FOR YOU, NOT TO MENTION LISTEN TO YOUR WHINING...
PAFF
I CAME ALL THIS WAY FROM TOKYO...
AND THEN, IN THE END, YOU WENT AND GOT A BOY-FRIEND, AND THAT'S WHY THE BAND BROKE UP... WHAT WAS I SUP-POSED TO DO? EVEN IF I COULD HAVE WRITTEN NEW SONGS, YOU KNOW I CAN'T SING, AND YOU STILL...
whine
whine
whine
whine
AH! I'M SORRY, SUMIRÉ-CHAN!
CLAMP
TMP TMP
I'M JUST GOING TO GO HOME.
Don't leave me...

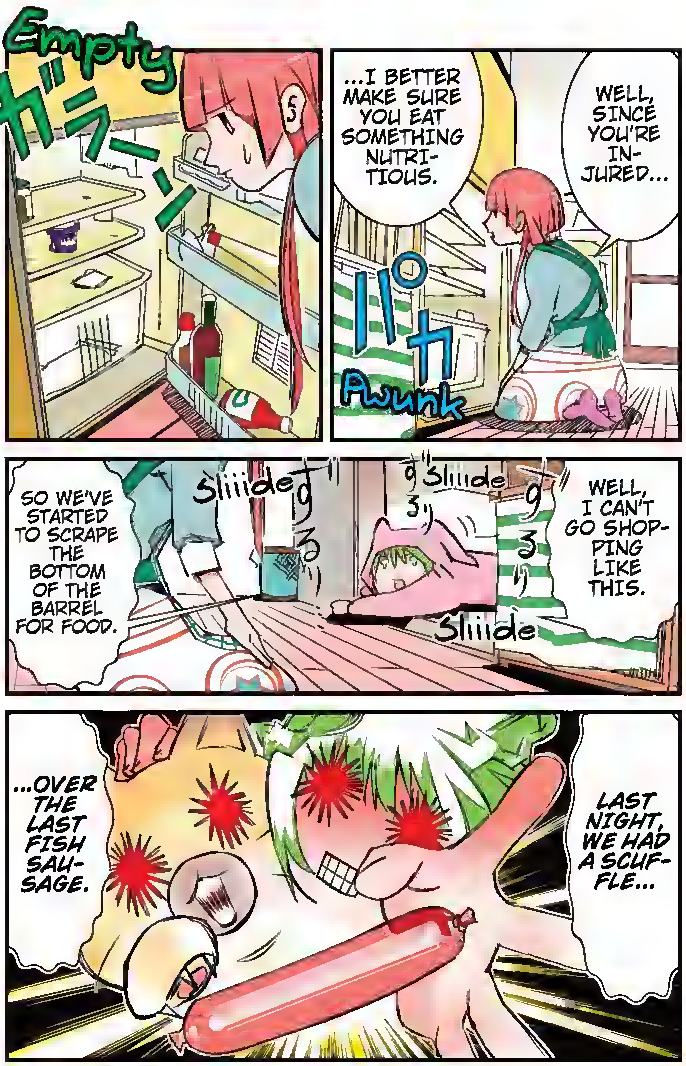
THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

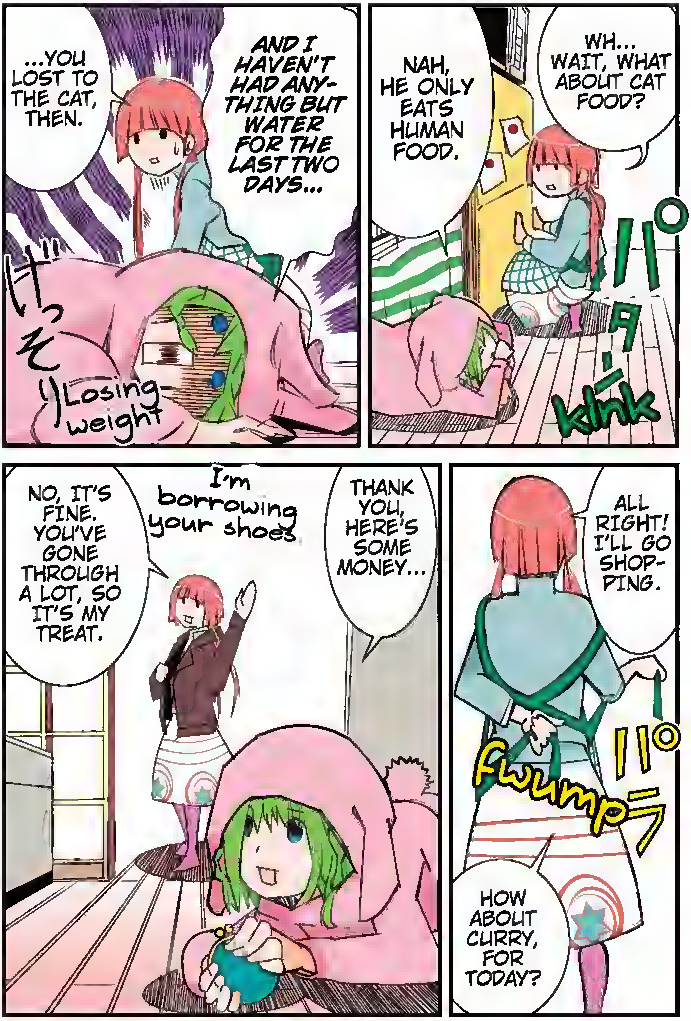

Check out these pompoms?
NAH, I'M GOOD.
IF YOU STAY OVER, I'LL LET YOU TOUCH THE CAT'S BALLS AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!
...YOU DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND, DO YOU?
YOU CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT MY PANTIES, CAN'T YOU?
ANYHOW, I GUESS YOU'RE STILL BUYING YOUR PANTIES AT THE 100 YEN SHOP, AREN'T YOU?

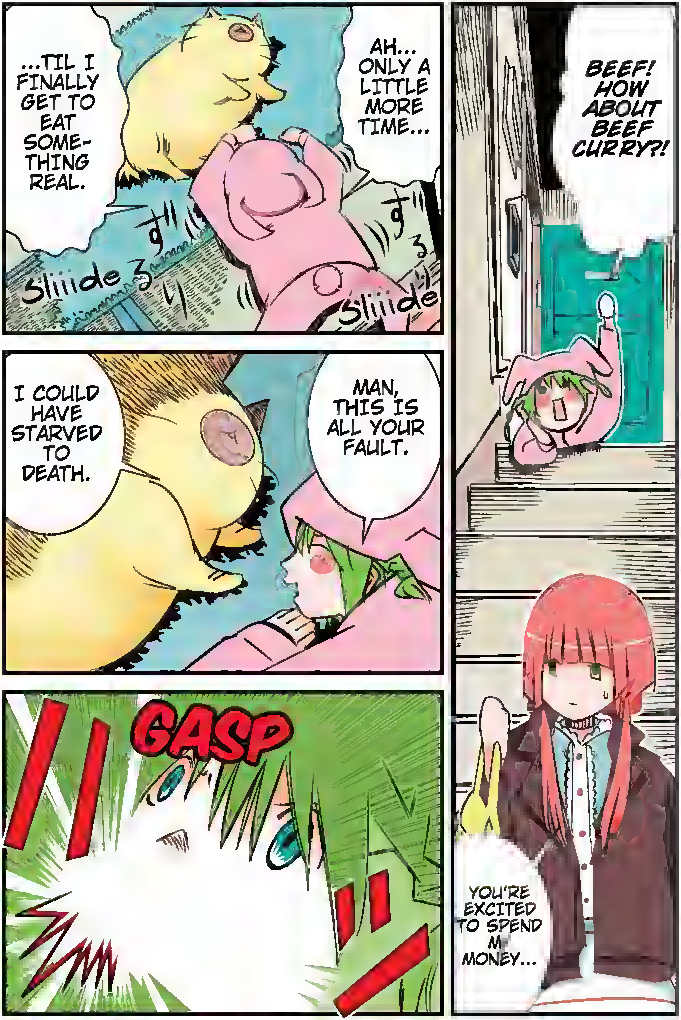

MAYBE IT REALLY IS A TAWARA CAT, HM?
CLATTER
カラ
THAT AND THAT CAT.
NOT JUST THE NAME.
SURE, IT LOOKS LIKE A RICE BALE...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS ASKING ABOUT.
MY GRANDMA TOLD ME A STORY A LONG TIME AGO...
THERE ARE CATS CALLED TAWARA CATS WHO BRING JOY AND LAUGHTER TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

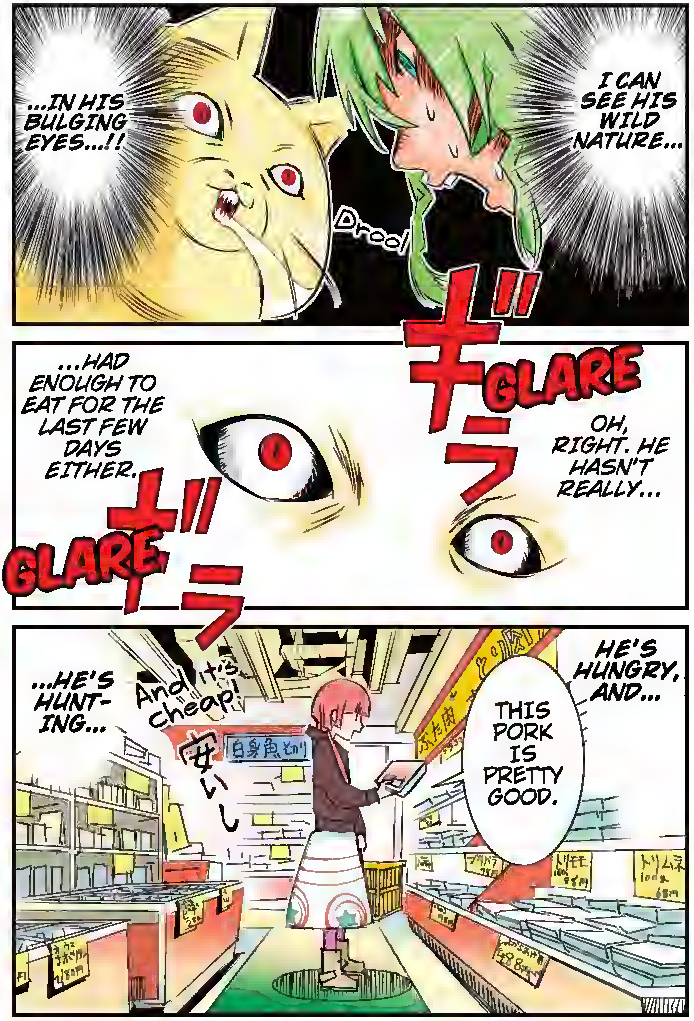

AND PLUS...
crawl crawl
HE'S PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS ANY OTHER CAT.
HA HA HA, NO WAY.
...EVER SINCE THIS FAT CAT SHOWED UP!
LOOK AT THIS! THIS IS THE DAMAGES THAT HE'S CAUSED...
Cat-related financial damages
¥63,517円
Top-quality Mentaiko 5,800円
Asti Spumante 1,380円
Missed Work 4,800円
Shampoo 3,000円
Cat litter 515円
Washbasin 1,650円
Cat Food 650円
Dried Squid 315円
Doctor Visit for back 2,340円
Medicine 780円
Missed Work
1 day at 8,100円 X 5 days
40,500円
Sardines 515円
Fish 315円

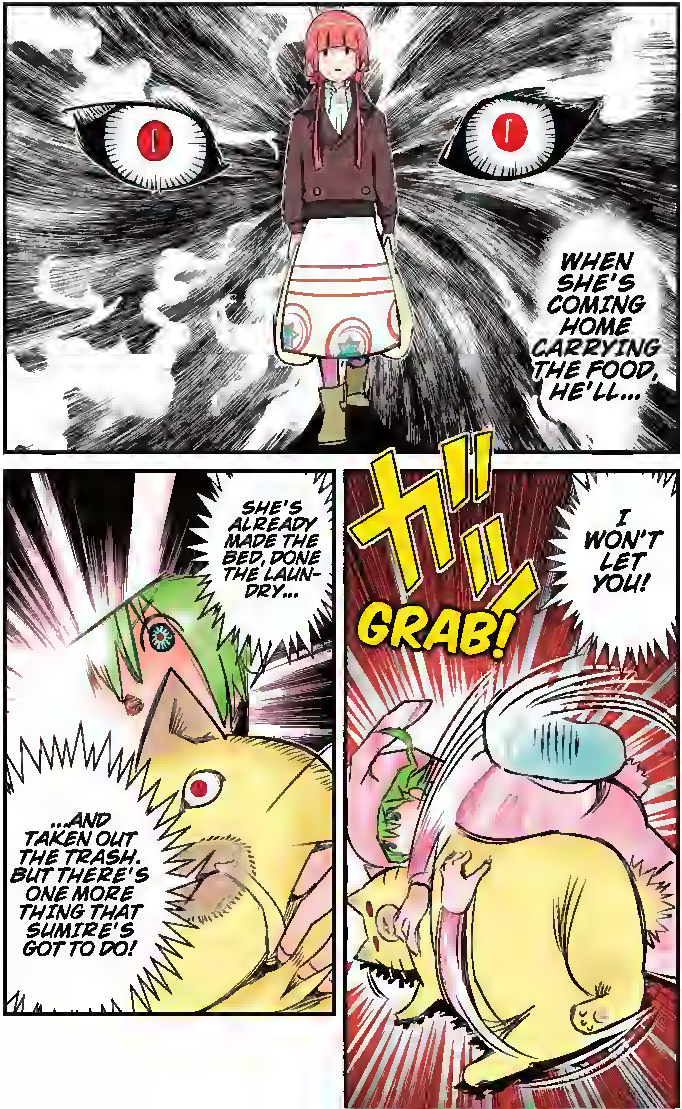
DON'T GET AGITATED.
Oh, my
OW!
KRCK
I'VE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF IT IN MY ENTIRE MESSED-UP LIFE!
AND PLUS, WHAT THE HECK IS GOOD LUCK ANYWAY?
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP THE CAT.
Shhh now.
IF YOU HATE HAVING IT AROUND THAT MUCH...
Pet Pet
Ehn Ehn

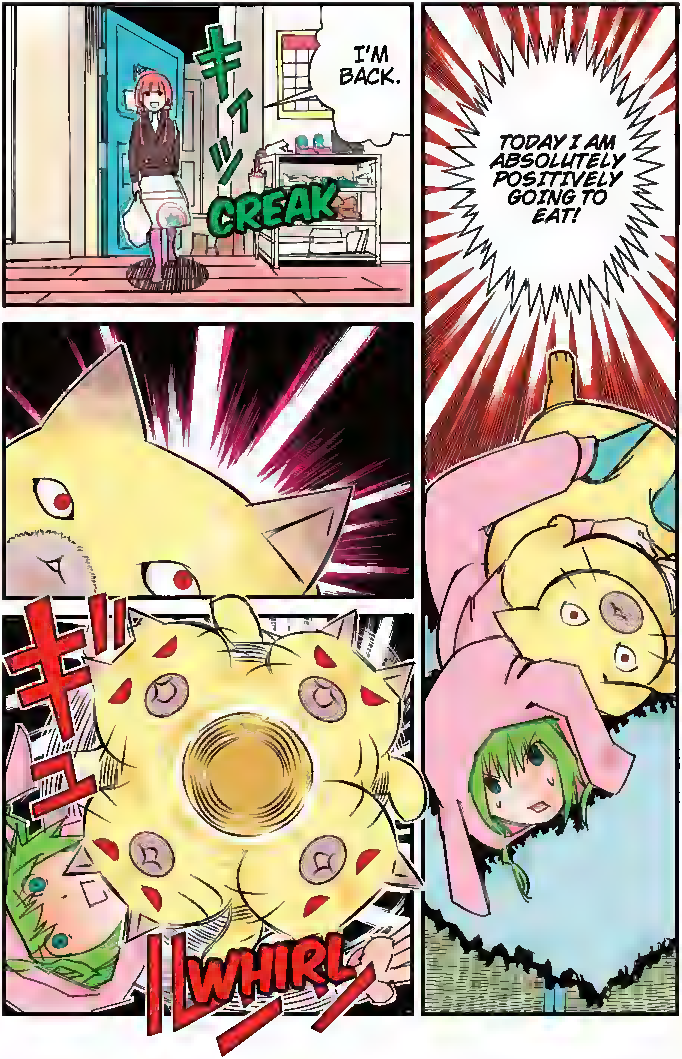

Empty
ガラーン
...I BETTER MAKE SURE YOU EAT SOMETHING NUTRITIOUS.
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE INJURED...
Pwunk
SO WE'VE STARTED TO SCRAPE THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL FOR FOOD.
Sliiide
Sliiide
Sliiide
WELL, I CAN'T GO SHOPPING LIKE THIS.
...OVER THE LAST FISH SAUSAGE.
LAST NIGHT, WE HAD A SCUFFLE...

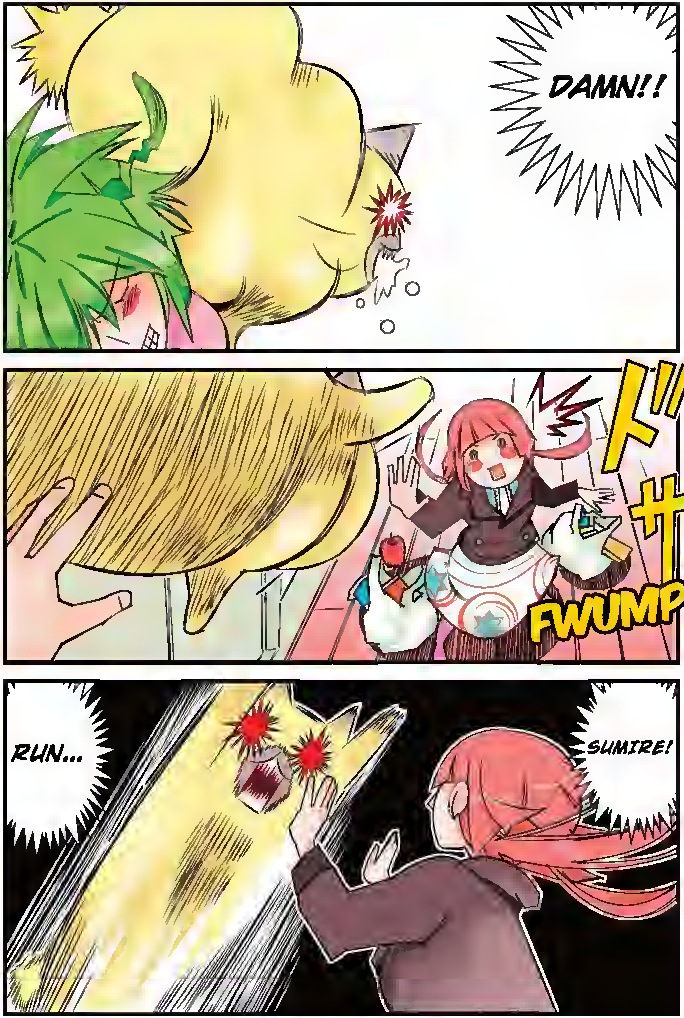

...YOU LOST TO THE CAT, THEN.
AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANY-THING BUT WATER FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS...
Losing weight
NAH, HE ONLY EATS HUMAN FOOD.
WH... WAIT, WHAT ABOUT CAT FOOD?
klink
NO, IT'S FINE. YOU'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT, SO IT'S MY TREAT.
I'm borrowing your shoes
THANK YOU, HERE'S SOME MONEY...
ALL RIGHT! I'LL GO SHOP-PING.
fwump
HOW ABOUT CURRY, FOR TODAY?


...TIL I FINALLY GET TO EAT SOME-THING REAL.
AH... ONLY A LITTLE MORE TIME...
Sliiide
Sliiide
I COULD HAVE STARVED TO DEATH.
MAN, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
GASP
BEEF! HOW ABOUT BEEF CURRY?!
YOU'RE EXCITED TO SPEND M MONEY...

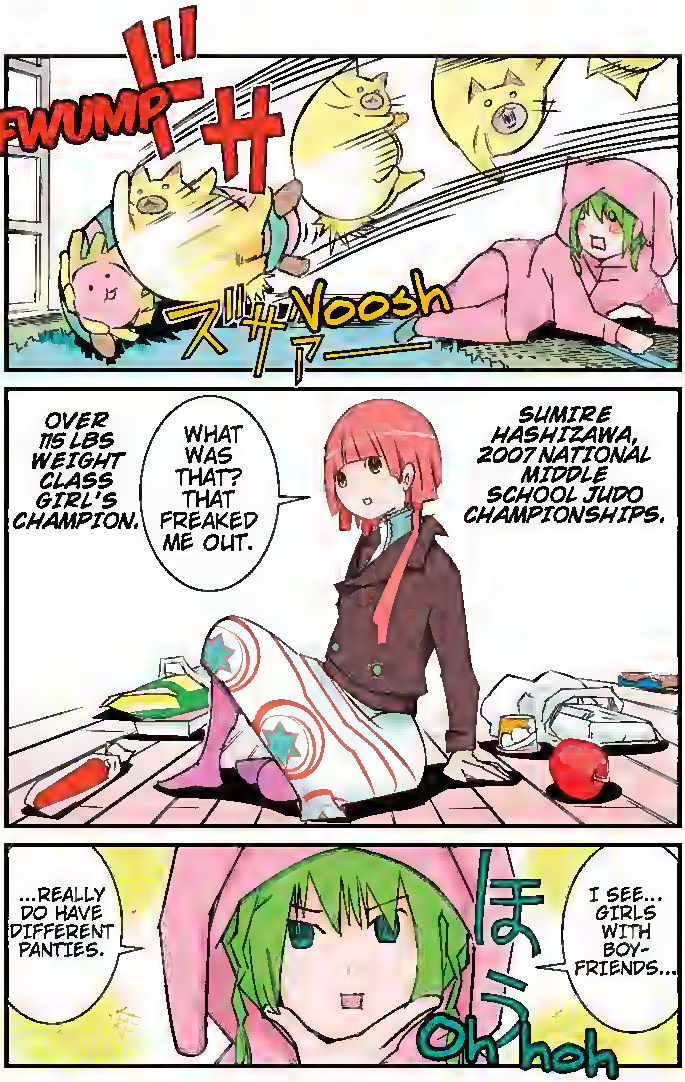

I CAN SEE HIS WILD NATURE...
Drool
...IN HIS BULGING EYES...!!
キラ
GLARE
OH, RIGHT. HE HASN'T REALLY...
...HAD ENOUGH TO EAT FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS EITHER.
キラ
GLARE
HE'S HUNGRY, AND...
THIS PORK IS PRETTY GOOD.
...HE'S HUNT-ING...
And it's cheap!
安い
自身魚ﾄﾘ

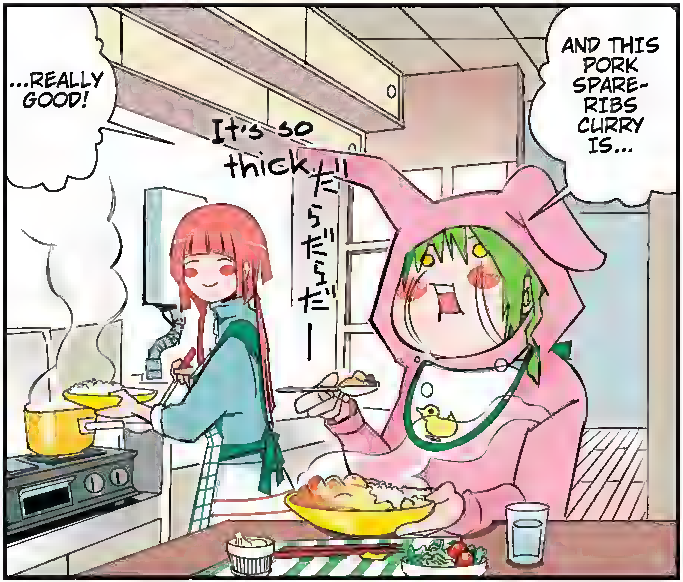

WHEN SHE'S COMING HOME CARRYING THE FOOD, HE'LL...
SHE'S ALREADY MADE THE BED, DONE THE LAUNDRY...
...AND TAKEN OUT THE TRASH. BUT THERE'S ONE MORE THING THAT SUMIRE'S GOT TO DO!
GRAB!
I WON'T LET YOU!

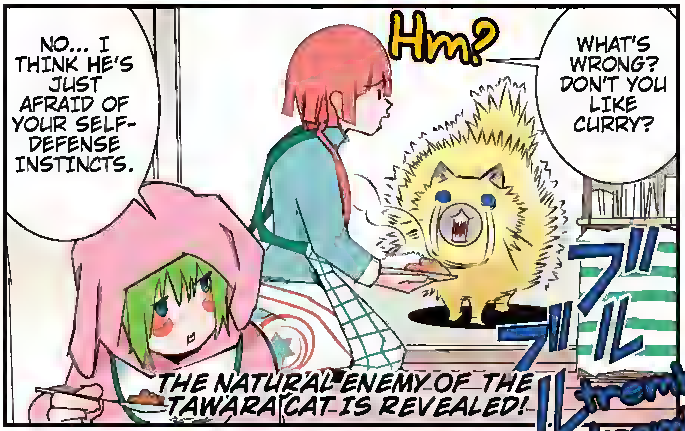

I'M BACK.
キィッ
CREAK
TODAY I AM ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY GOING TO EAT!
キュ
WHIRL


DAMN!!
ドサ
FWUMP
RUN...
SUMIRE!

GRAB
PUSH


FWUMP!!!
スルッ
Voosh
OVER 115 LBS WEIGHT CLASS GIRL'S CHAMPION.
WHAT WAS THAT? THAT FREAKED ME OUT.
SUMIRE HASHIZAWA, 2007 NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS.
...REALLY DO HAVE DIFFERENT PANTIES.
ほう
Oh hoh
I SEE... GIRLS WITH BOY-FRIENDS...


...REALLY GOOD!
It's so thick!!
たらーたらーたらー
AND THIS PORK SPARE-RIBS CURRY IS...


NO... I THINK HE'S JUST AFRAID OF YOUR SELF-DEFENSE INSTINCTS.
Hm?
WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU LIKE CURRY?
THE NATURAL ENEMY OF THE TAWARA CAT IS REVEALED!
フルフルフル!!
tremble tremble tremble